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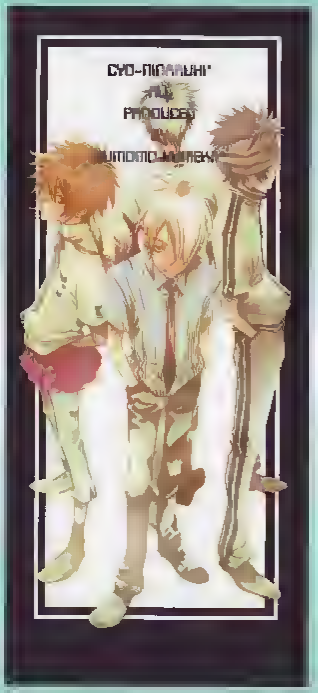
The Day I Become a Butterfly



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The Day I Become a Butterfly

BY
SUMOMO YUMEKA

June Yaoi Manga

The Day I Become a Butterfly
SUMOMO YUMEKA
June

The Day I Become a Butterfly

Uka is counting down the hours, waiting for the day he becomes a butterfly. Although he has been diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, Uka doesn't believe that this is the end. He knows a day will come when he will be free to flutter and fly as a butterfly.

Watching silently from the shadows is the mysterious Mikami. Mikami "senses" that Uka is nearing his end. He knows that falling in love with a boy who is about to pass away is hopeless but he cannot help himself. Will Mikami's love be strong enough to keep Uka's butterfly wings grounded?

This collection of bittersweet tales from Sumomo Yumeka also includes stories about a blue cat, a Tokyo alien and your very own planet. Intrigued? Flip through the pages and satisfy your curiosity.

MANGA / DRAMA / ROMANCE
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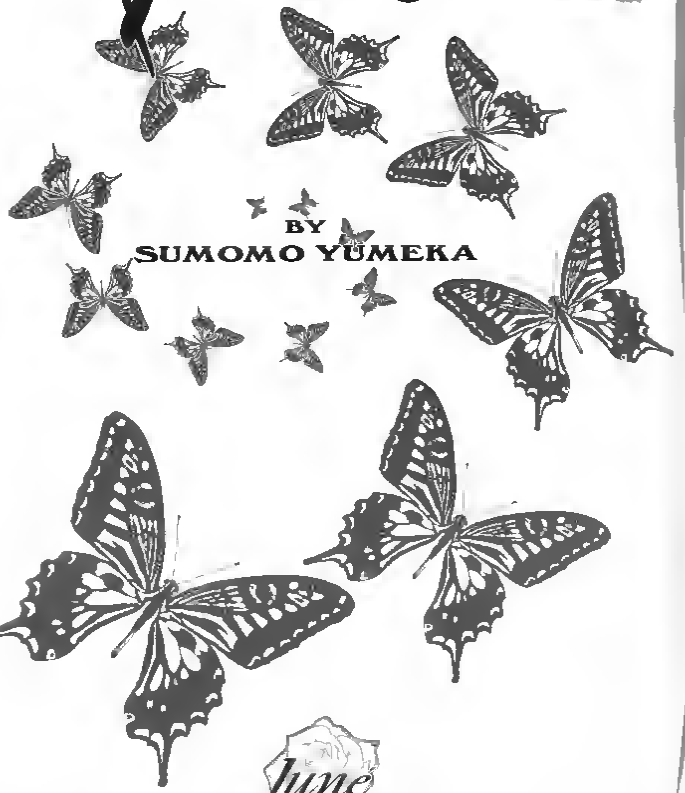
The Day I Become a Butterfly



BY
SUMOMO YUMEKA

June

THE DAY I DECIDED TO GO ON LIVING MY LIFE WITH YOU IS THE DAY I BECAME A BUTTERFLY.

THE DAY I BECOME A BUTTERFLY

The Day I Become a Butterfly

CONTENTS:

THE DAY I BECOME A BUTTERFLY	003
YOU AT THE END	053
THE LONELY WAR	081
BLUE CAT TUNNEL	105
TOKYO ALIEN ULALA	125
PLANET YOURS	145
ENDING	159

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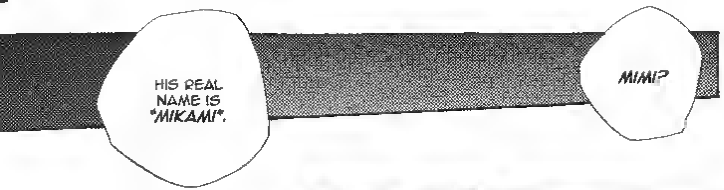
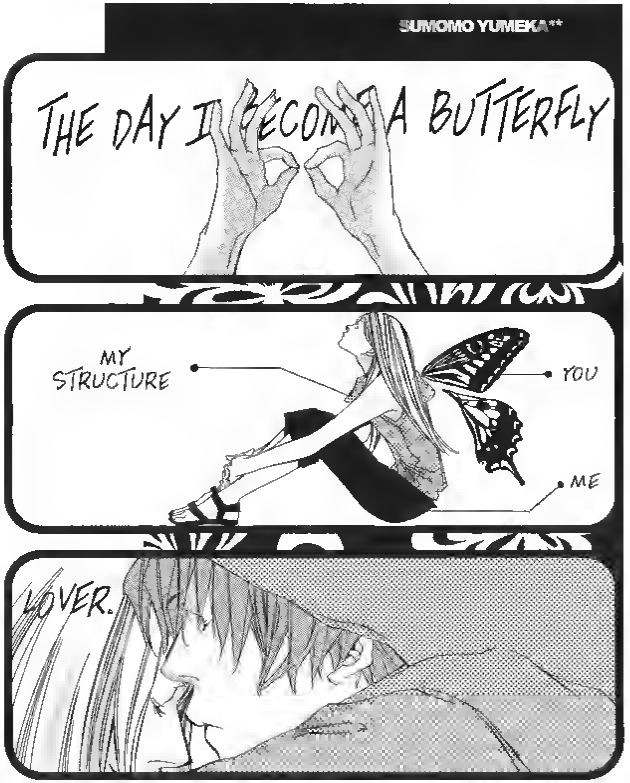
THE DAY I BECOME A BUTTERFLY



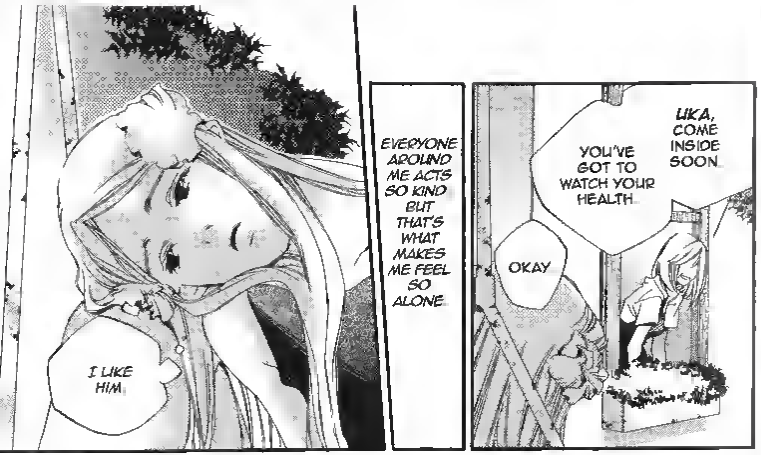
THERE'S THIS RUMOR...
...THEY SAY HE CAN "HEAR"--
--WHEN A LIVING THING IS GOING TO DIE...
ONE TIME, EVERYONE IN CLASS MADE A BET - PREDICTING THE DAY THE FIRST SCHOOL PRINCIPAL WOULD DIE
MIMI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT IT RIGHT
IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE, THOUGH - WASN'T IT?



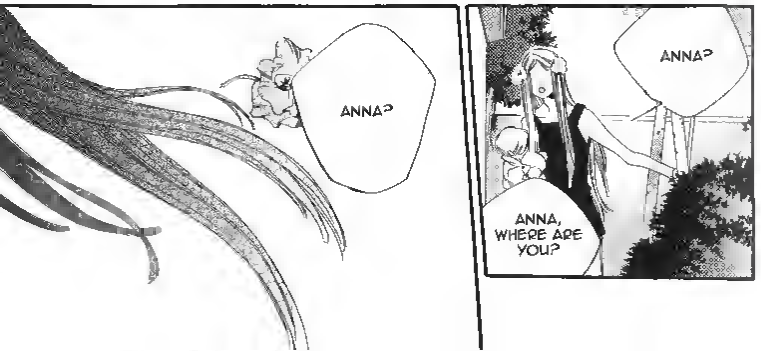
CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NI

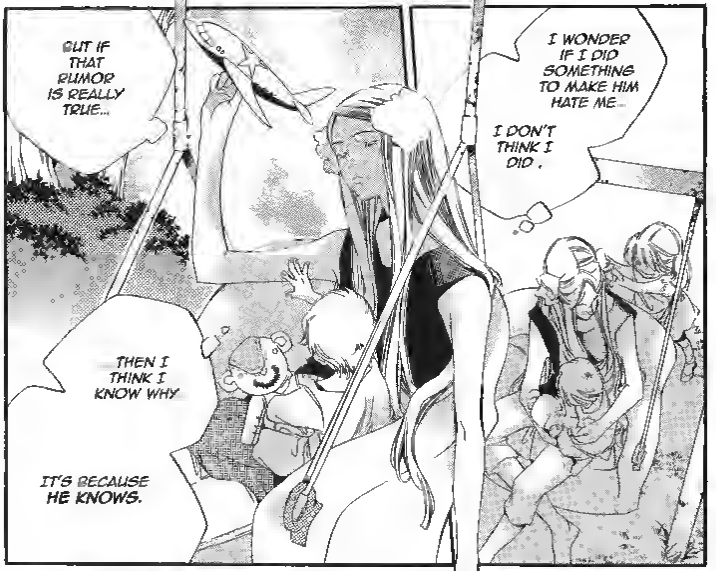
IF I AM THAT MUCH TO BE PITIED
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'VE COME THIS FAR.
YOU'LL BE JUST FINE.
EVERYONE SMILES
PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
YOU'VE ONLY JUST TURNED FIFTEEN
THE DOCTOR IS RIGHT
EVERYONE LIES
OKAY?
I SUPPOSE I'M GRATEFUL FOR IT BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER
THAT'S A JOKE IN POOR TASTE.
YEAH.
NO ONE REALLY BELIEVES IT, THOUGH.
DOCTOR-
HMM...?
OKAY, YOU CAN GET DRESSED NOW.
HOW MUCH LONGER HAVE I GOT?

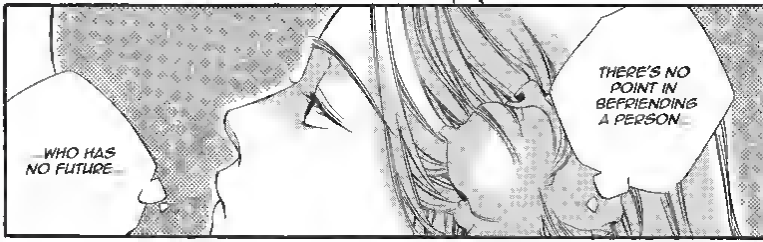
-MOST OF ALL...
HMPH
WELL, THAT WAS BLUNT.
AND I THINK HE HATES ME-
IF YOU KEEP LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT..
...PRETTY SOON YOU WON'T HAVE ANYONE AROUND YOU
IT'S THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS I DON'T LIKE.
WHATEVER...
MIMI...
...IS A PEOPLE-HATER


I LIKE HIM.
EVERYONE AROUND ME ACTS SO KIND BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME FEEL SO ALONE.
YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH YOUR HEALTH.
LIKA, COME INSIDE SOON.
OKAY

BECAUSE I'M SURE HE WON'T SMILE AND LIE TO ME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.




BUT IF THAT RUMOR IS REALLY TRUE...
I WONDER IF I DID SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM HATE ME...
I DON'T THINK I DID.
THEN I THINK I KNOW WHY.
IT'S BECAUSE HE KNOWS.



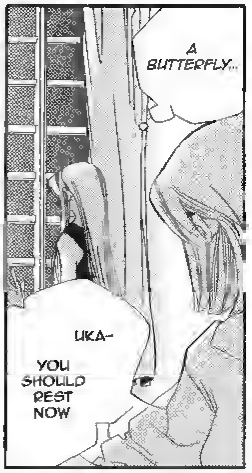
!

YOU SHOULDN'T RUN!
UKA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

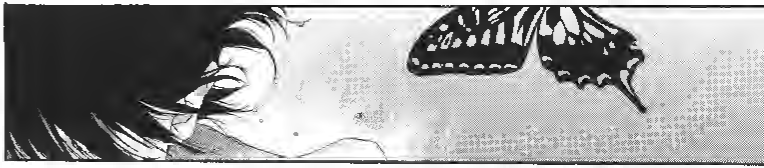
UM...!

YES, PLEASE SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY..

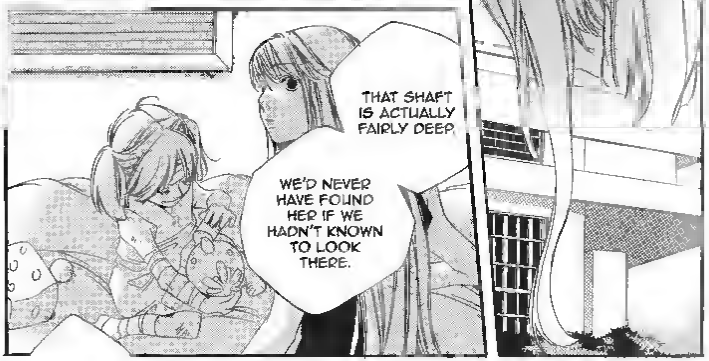
OKAY?
LEAVE THE REST TO ME.


A BUTTERFLY...
UKA-
YOU SHOULD REST NOW

"YOU'RE USELESS"
WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT?



...YOUR DAUGHTER WAS EXTREMELY LUCKY
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...
IT'S A GOOD THING WE FOUND HER WHEN WE DID


THAT SHAFT IS ACTUALLY FAIRLY DEEP.
WE'D NEVER HAVE FOUND HER IF WE HADN'T KNOWN TO LOOK THERE.

YES, IT'S A GOOD THING WE FOUND HER...
...

YOU MIGHT FIND SOMETHING GOOD.
THE SHAFT NEXT TO THE BRIDGE...YOU SHOULD HAVE A LOOK.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER FOR DINNER?

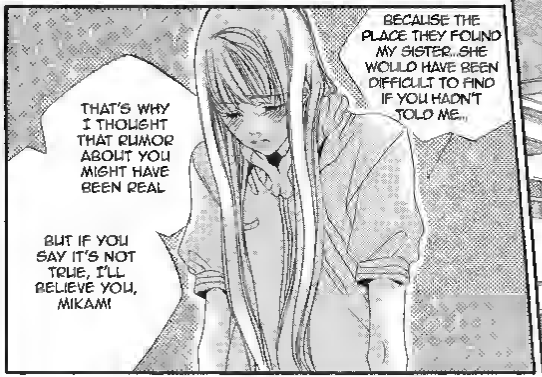
I JUST...
...WANT TO THANK YOU.
..I GET CHILLS.
W..WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO MY SISTER IF WE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HER, I

?
BUT I'M GLAD.

I'LL PASS

OKAY

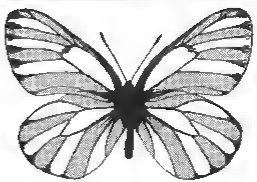
PFFT!
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?
SO NOW YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT RUMOR?


BECAUSE THE PLACE THEY FOUND MY SISTER...SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO FIND IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME...
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT THAT RUMOR ABOUT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN REAL
BUT IF YOU SAY IT'S NOT TRUE, I'LL BELIEVE YOU, MIKAMI

I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO, SO..

REALLY?
AND THEN
"I'LL BELIEVE YOU, MIKAMI."
"BUT IF YOU SAY IT'S NOT TRUE..."
HAHA!
HMPH
HEH HEH

...TO HELP SOMEONE YOU HATED, RIGHT?
BECAUSE... YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME ALL THE WAY OVER IN THE RAIN..
...

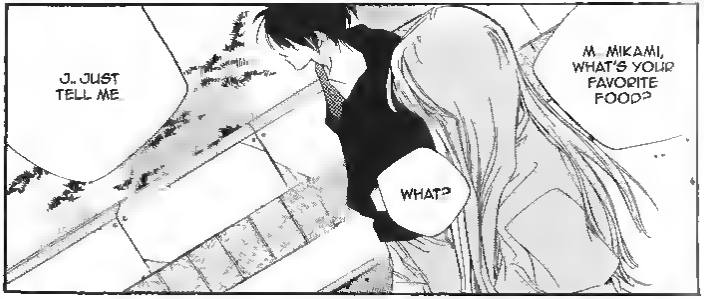


HEY, LIKA?
WHAT'S WRONG, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SOMEONE CALL THE DOCTOR
I'M ALL RIGHT.
WE SHOULD TAKE HIM TO THE INFIRMARY
YOU TAKE THAT SIDE-

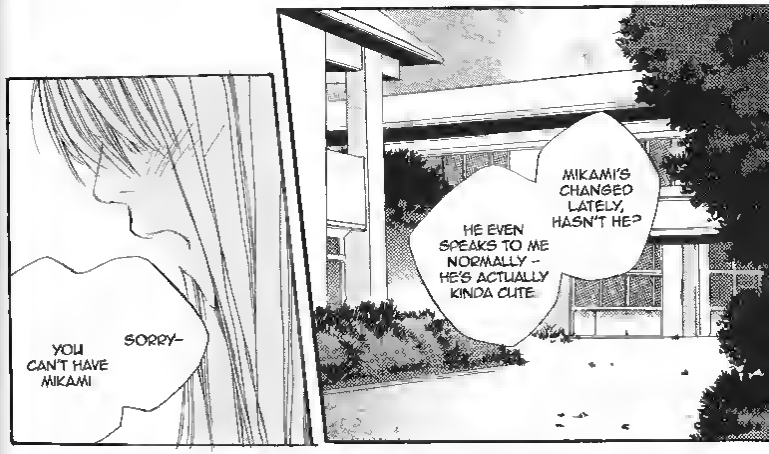
DON'T TOUCH HIM.

I THINK...
...THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT IT IS
JUST WHEN I HAD DECIDED TO GIVE UP
...JUST KIDDING
HAHA
IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU LIKED ME OR SOMETHING, MIKAMI
HAHAHA
YEAH
WHAT?
WHAT AM I DOING?
HE'LL BE OKAY NOW.
IT WAS JUST A MINOR ATTACK...
IT WAS NOTHING
U...UM...
THANKS FOR HELPING ME EARLIER

I... ISN'T THAT NICE, MIKAMI?
YOU WERE BEING TALKED ABOUT...
THEY SAID YOU WERE ACTUALLY KINDA CUTE...
HUH?


J... JUST TELL ME...
M... MIKAMI, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
WHAT?

?
HATES THEM
SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS.


MIKAMI'S CHANGED LATELY, HASN'T HE?
HE EVEN SPEAKS TO ME NORMALLY -- HE'S ACTUALLY KINDA CUTE...
SORRY-
YOU CAN'T HAVE MIKAMI

DUNNO
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?

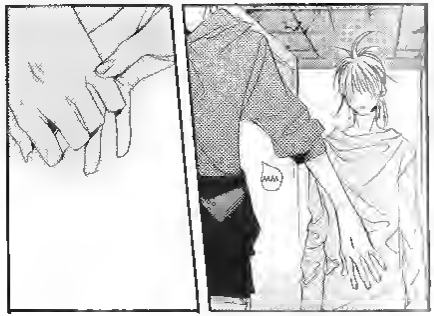
I COULDN'T BE SATISFIED WITH SIMPLE LOGIC. THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T STOP.

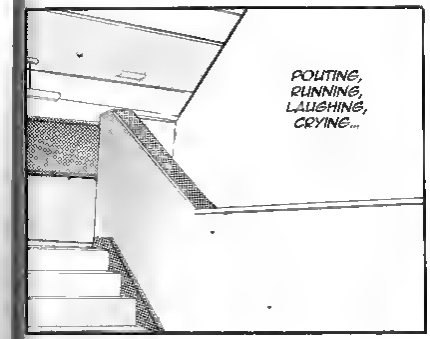
I'M... ALWAYS SCARED- EVERY DAY
YOU'VE NEVER FELT ANXIOUS HAVE YOU, MIKAMI?
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE
I'M GONNA WALK HOME ALONE
I'M NOT FINE
BUT YOU- EVEN NOW, YOU SIT THERE AND LOOK FINE
I WAS REALLY HAPPY WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU DIDN'T HATE ME, BUT..

TO BE ABLE TO DECLARE YOU'RE MINE...

TO BE HONEST-

...IT'S REALLY HARD FOR ME...





TURURURURU.....

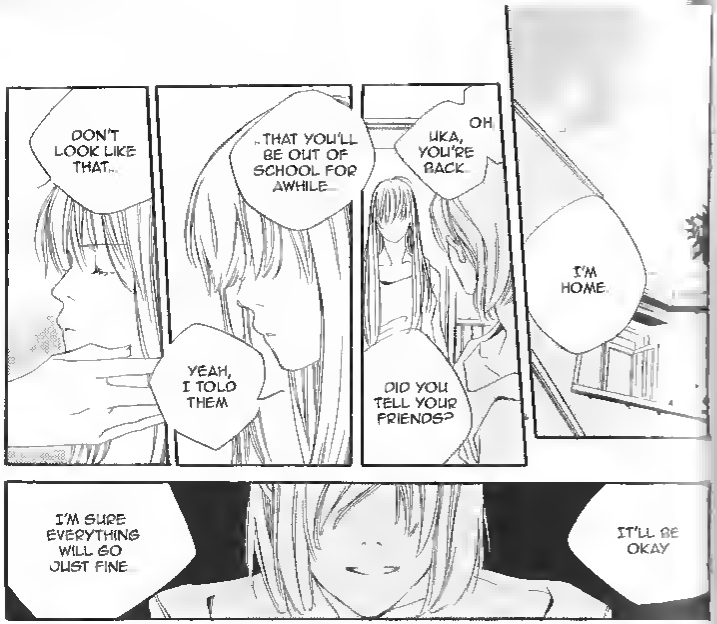
BUT IT'S ALL I CAN DO...

Y-YOU REALLY CAN'T "HEAR" ANYTHING, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID RIGHT, MIKAMI?
RIGHT?
BUT IF YOU REALLY COULD HEAR-

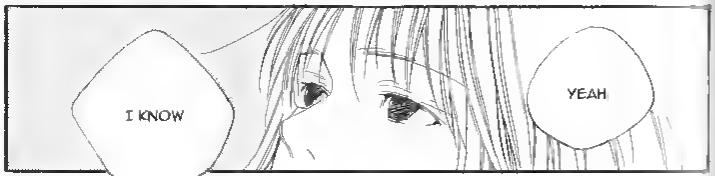
THAT'S WHEN I'M GOING
OH, YEAH- THIS AFTERNOON.
YOU'D PROBABLY GO AWAY SOMEWHERE
HUH?
WEREN'T YOU SAYING YOU HAD A CHECKUP TODAY?
A GEEZER, WITH A BEARD.
HE'S STRANGE
COME TO THINK OF IT
YOUR DOCTOR IS IT A WOMAN?
HUH? NO, HE'S A MAN
LET ME SEE
HUH?
WAI..
HUH? WHAT IS IT?

Y..
YOU KIDDING AROUND?
NO
WAI
I.
I JUST CAN'T!
WHAT'S WRONG, MIKAMI? YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY...
SO HOW COME IT'S OKAY WITH THE GEEZER-
..BUT NOT WITH ME?

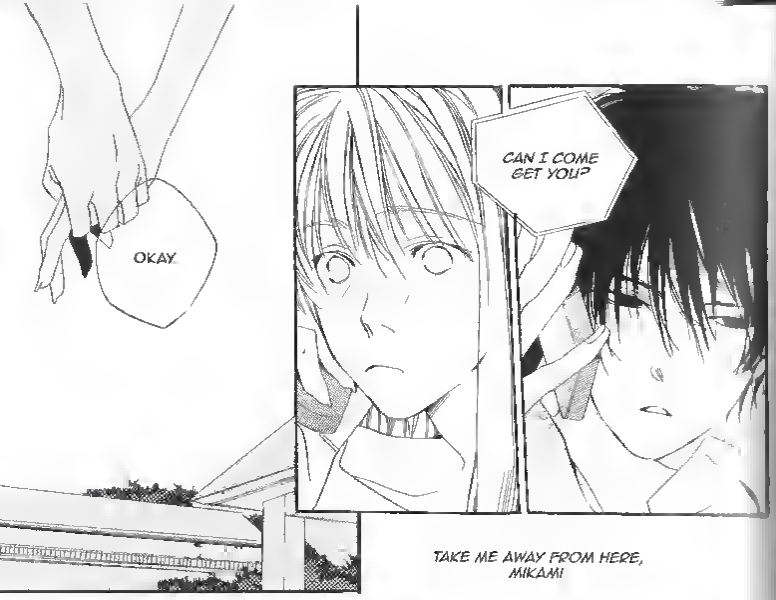
HEY, DID YOU KNOW?
THAT LITTLE JEALOUSY YOU SHOW ME SOMETIMES


DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT...
...THAT YOU'LL BE OUT OF SCHOOL FOR AWHILE...
OH, UKA, YOU'RE BACK...
I'M HOME.
YEAH, I TOLD THEM
DID YOU TELL YOUR FRIENDS?
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL GO JUST FINE...
IT'LL BE OKAY

THIS SURGERY WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT



PLEASE BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST

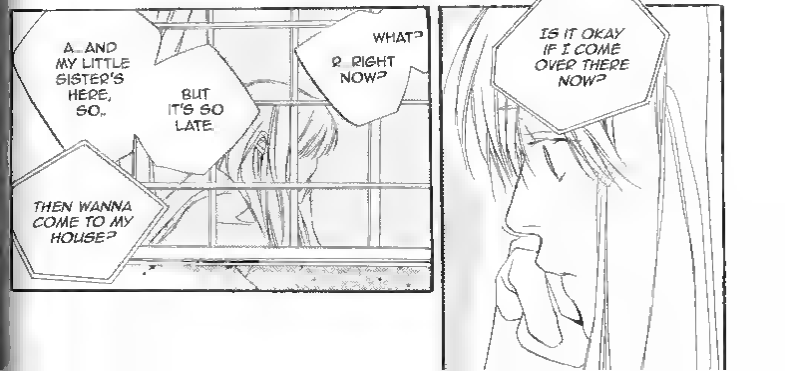


TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE, MIKAMI

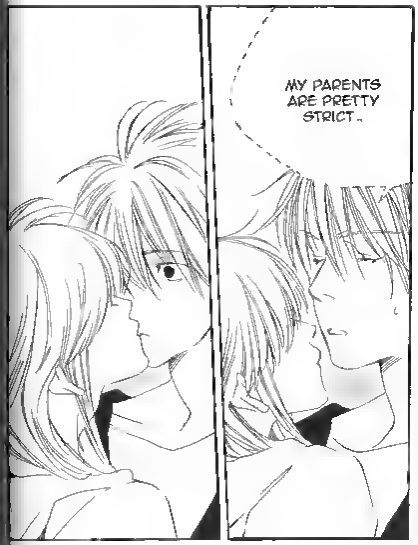
I WANT TO SEE YOU, MIKAMI

STAY NEAR ME, MIKAMI

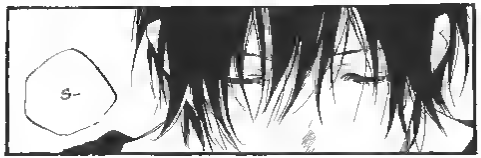
TAKE ME AWAY-



IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO BE, MIKAMI?
?
HUH?
YOU HAVE A BUTTERFLY TATTOO ON YOUR STOMACH


MY PARENTS ARE PRETTY STRICT..

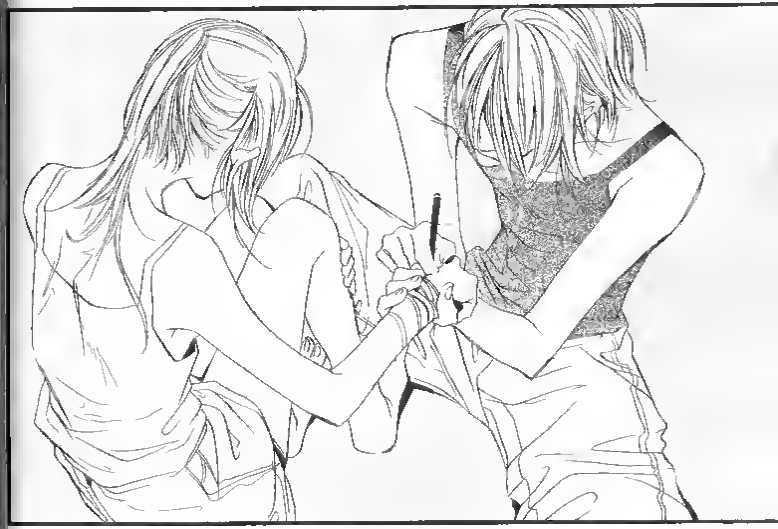
?

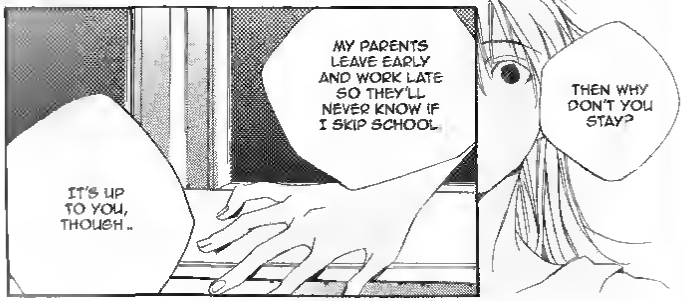

S-

SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHY I DID THAT..

YOU WANT ONE, TOO?
YOU'LL HAVE IT FOR LIFE, BUT..
YOU KNOW.. PEOPLE SOMETIMES GET TATTOOS OF THINGS THEY WANT TO BE REBORN AS..
THAT'S NICE.. A BUTTERFLY..

THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, THE SAME BUTTERFLY AS ME..





DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING AFTER ALL?
CAN'T YOU SLEEP? OR...
I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME, MIKAMI
I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME

I WONDER WHY MIKAMI CAN HEAR IT?
I'LL BET...
...EVERYONE'S WORRIED RIGHT ABOUT NOW
I THINK I'D BETTER GO HOME AFTER ALL...

BYE-BYE, MIKAMI

UKA!
I'M SORRY..
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?
OH WELL- IT'S ALL RIGHT HURRY AND COME OVER HERE
OKAY

WHY IS IT ALWAYS JUST ME...
DON'T LET THE DAY YOU BECOME A BUTTERFLY BE TODAY..
THEN...
...COME BACK TO ME
NOW I KNOW WHY YOU CAN HEAR IT, MIKAMI
THE PEOPLE YOU TELL CAN BECOME STRONGER BECAUSE OF IT. SO PLEASE DON'T FEEL ALONE..
YOU CAN HEAR IT BECAUSE YOU'RE TRULY KIND

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SAID YOU'D BELIEVE ME!
ASKING MYSELF WHAT WAS THE POINT OF CHASING AFTER SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO GO AWAY...
I THOUGHT ABOUT GIVING UP MANY TIMES..
...NOT STRONG ENOUGH
I'M...
BUT I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF.

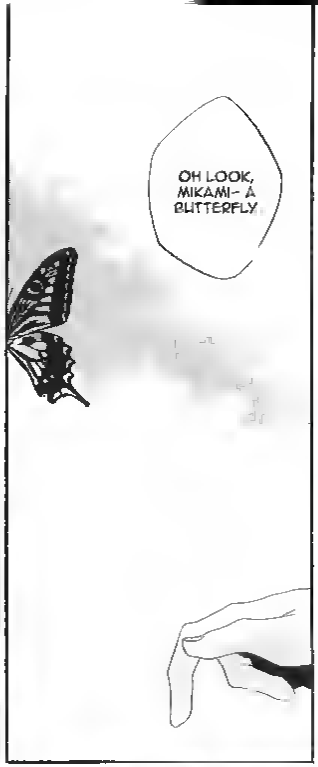
NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI★CYO-NINARUHI

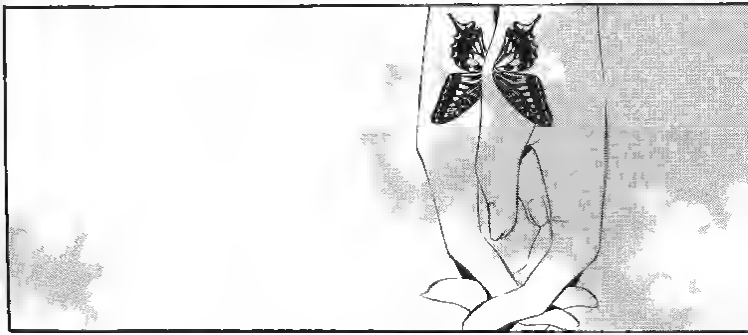
● ON TOP OF THE WORLD, LOOK
DOWN ON THE BUILDINGS I DRA
ONCE AGAIN. YOU ARE YOU AL

● FOR EXAMPLE, IF I PAINTED P
YOU A FANTASY- OF US TEN YE
FROM NOW, STILL UNABLE TO
UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER YOU
BEING THE SMART PERSON YOU
WOULD PROBABLY LAUGH,
CALLING ME IRRESPONSIBLE

● THE STUDY OF WHALES WHAL
ONCE LIVED ON THE LAND BUT
HULKING MASS DESTROYED THE
EARTH AND FOREST. SO IT LEFT
THE SEA. WHEN I REALIZE THAT
WORLDS ARE DIFFERENT, THAT
AND I ARE NOT MEANT FOR EA
OTHER. WILL I BE ABLE TO ACT
THE WHALE DID?

● PLEASE DON'T HATE ME ON A
WALK WITH YOU ON THE PHON
WITH YOU RUNNING WITH YOU,
TOUCHING YOU





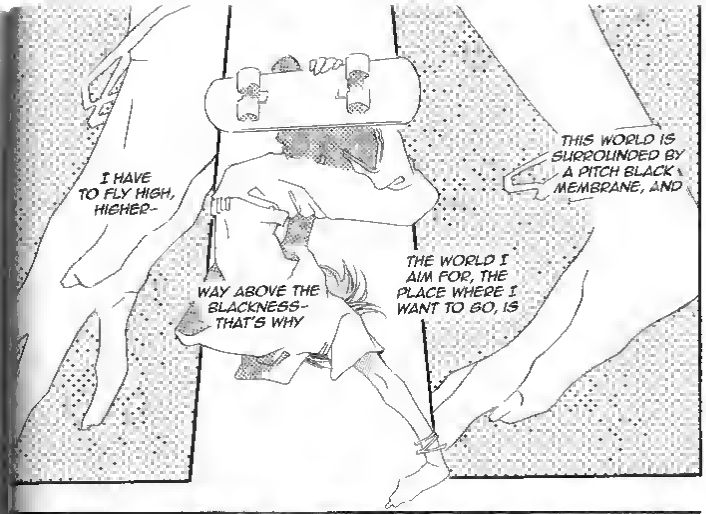
THE DAY I BECOME A BUTTERFLY / END

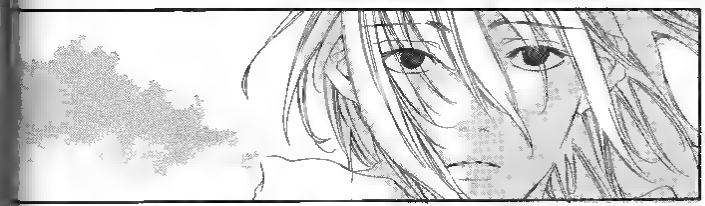
...D THEN- AGAIN,
...AY, I REACH OUT
...HAND.

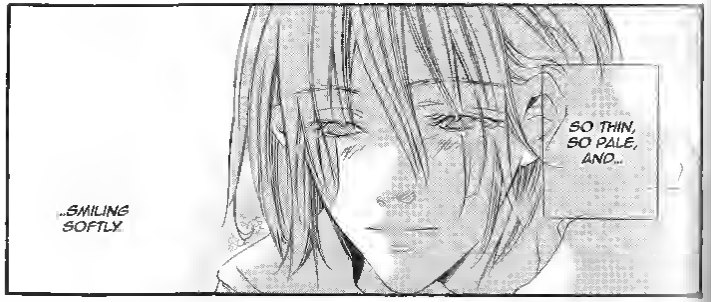
...PRAY FOR ONE
...G ONLY THAT AT
...ENDING OF THE
...WE CALL TODAY,
...ORROW WILL BE
...T THE SAME THAT
...THE TIME YOU
...HERE, YOU ARE
...YOU THAT IS MINE

...C TOC, TIME
...SES BY I AM AT
...WITH MYSELF

YOU AT THE END


I HAVE TO FLY HIGH, HIGHER-
THIS WORLD IS SURROUNDED BY A PITCH BLACK MEMBRANE, AND
WAY ABOVE THE BLACKNESS- THAT'S WHY
THE WORLD I AIM FOR, THE PLACE WHERE I WANT TO GO, IS





I OFTEN SEE HIM.
HE HAS NO VOICE.
I LEARN HIS NAME IS **MASARIYA.**

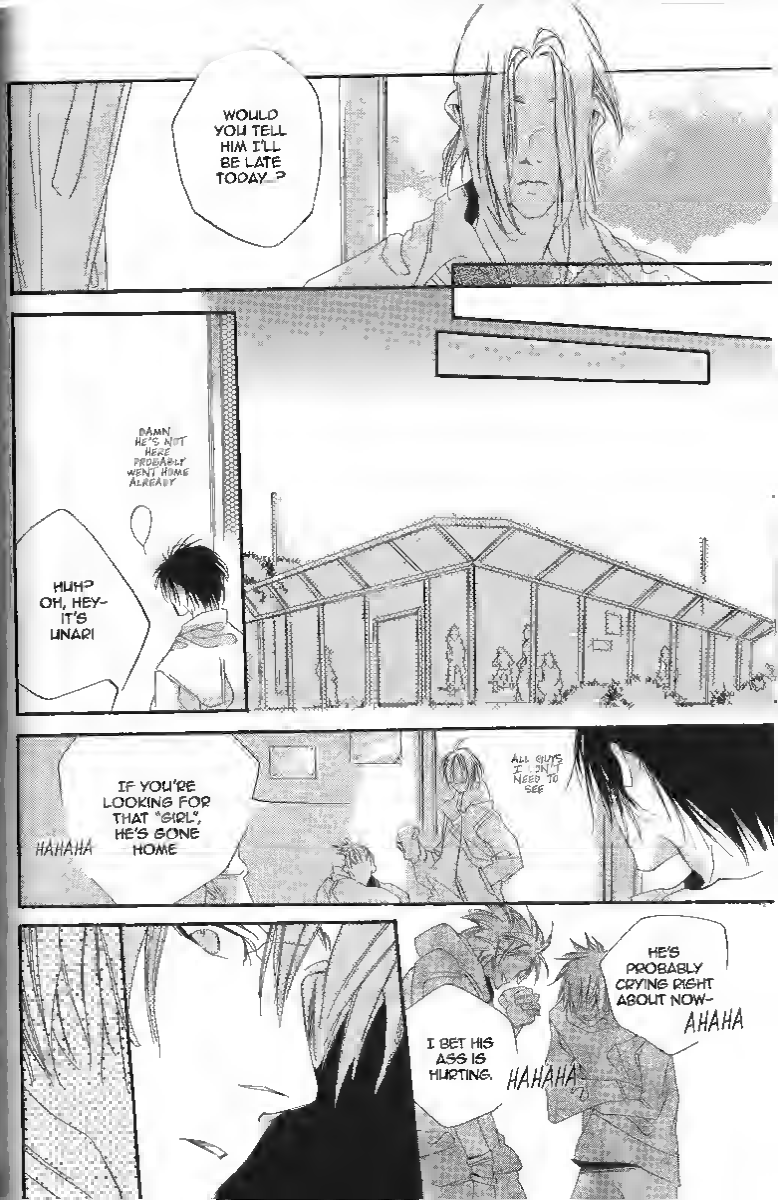
MY BIG BROTHER IS ALWAYS OUT SKATEBOARDING EVEN MORE THESE DAYS. YOU'RE HIS FRIEND, AREN'T YOU, **TOEH-KUN?**
STOP HIM, WON'T YOU?
HAHAHA

GRRAK
KTUNK
LIKE SOMEONE WHO-
MIGHT ONLY EXIST...
IN THAT PLACE I'LL FINALLY REACH SOMEDAY...
I ALMOST FEEL...
LIKE I MIGHT EVEN WANT TO TARRY HERE A BIT LONGER...
THIS WORLD-
UM, IT'S JUST-
IT'S IN THE WAY. YOUR HAIR.
C'MERE C'MERE
MASARIYA
YEAH- THERE WE GO-
IT'S CUTE, IT'S CUTE

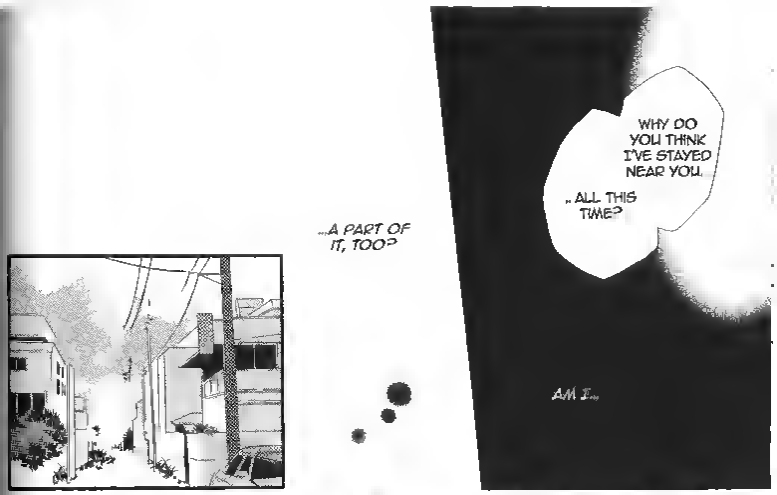
WE SHOULD BUT
YOU YOUR OWN BACK SOON
THE PLACE THAT WAS EMPTY
BECOMES FULFILLED
WELL SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW
NOD
TŌEH.
SO RAPIDLY..
SORRY, CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
I'VE GOT TO GO TO EXTRA STUDIES NOW-

BUT..
-IS OVERFLOWING WITH THINGS I DON'T NEED..
WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME TO FLY-
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU
I'LL CARRY HIM AWAY WITH ME
FEELING..
I'M...
SURPRISED MYSELF
SETTING YOUR PACE TO SOMEONE ELSE'S SPEED..

BAM
TOEH-
YOU...!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
WHY?!
THE BLACKNESS-
WHO SHOULD BE ANGRY..
TO PUNKS LIKE THAT?!
SELL MASARIYA OUT..
I'M THE ONE..


WOULD YOU TELL HIM I'LL BE LATE TODAY..?
DAMN HE'S NOT HERE PROBABLY WENT HOME ALREADY
HUH? OH, HEY- IT'S UNARI
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THAT "GIRL", HE'S GONE HOME
HAHAHA
ALL GUYS I DON'T NEED TO SEE
I BET HIS ASS IS HURTING.
HAHAHA
HE'S PROBABLY CRYING RIGHT ABOUT NOW-
AHAHA

I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY, MASARIYA...


...A PART OF IT, TOO?
WHY DO YOU THINK I'VE STAYED NEAR YOU...
...ALL THIS TIME?
AM I...

I'M STEPPING OUT FOR A WHILE, OKAY?
MASARIYA!
UNA! HAS COME TO VISIT YOU-
I'M SORRY. HE'S SHUT HIMSELF UP IN HIS ROOM EVER SINCE YESTERDAY...

DASH

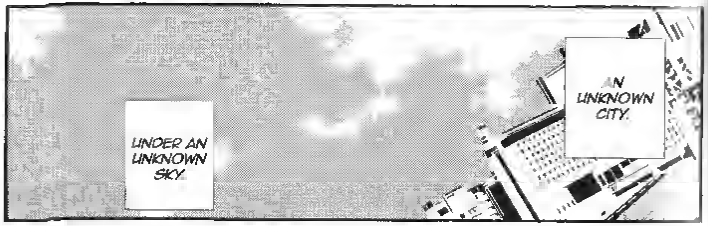
I'M...
KCHAK
COMING IN

PLEASE... OPEN UP, MASARIYA.
I BOUGHT YOU A BOARD.

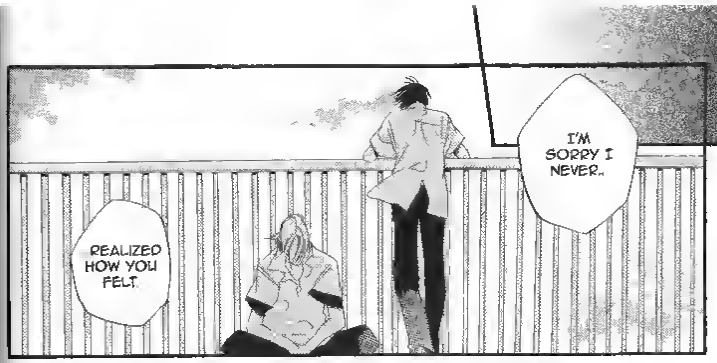
THIS WORLD IS OVERFLOWING WITH USELESS SOUNDS

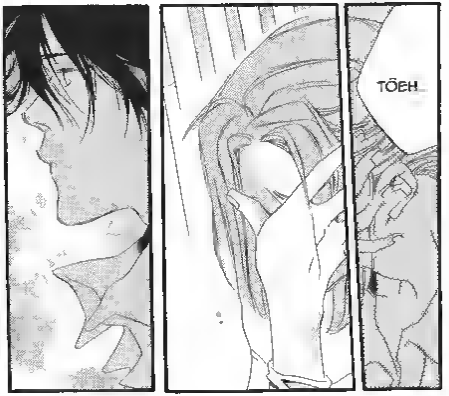
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU WITH ME...
SEEING YOU, I'M GUESSING THEY'RE PROBABLY OVERPROTECTIVE
ARE YOUR PARENTS THE MAGNANIMOUS TYPE?

YOU BETTER PUT SOME EFFORT INTO IT, TOO
THAT MIGHT POSE A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN PASSING THE ACTUAL EXAMS
OH WELL, I'M SURE IT'LL WORK OUT...
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
URRGH...



BUT I ALREADY KNOW WHAT WILL BE WAITING FOR ME WHEN I GET THERE.





BUT... THE ONE WEAPON WITH WHICH I COULD ESCAPE FROM THOSE THINGS--

I PUT AWAY...

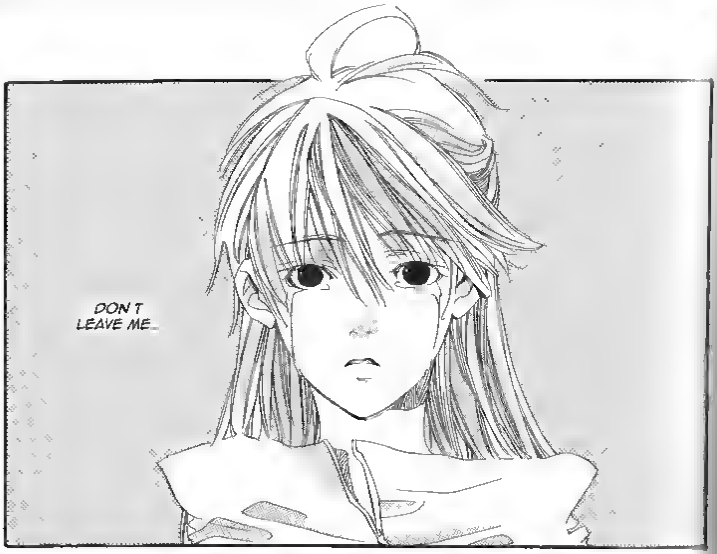
...MOTHER WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND YOU.
IF YOU EVER GOT LOST IN THAT CROWD OF PEOPLE...
I'VE BEEN WITHOUT THE MEANS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHERE I AM
OKAY, MASARIYA? YOU MUST NEVER GO OUTSIDE
EVER SINCE I WAS BORN,
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO LIVE AND DIE WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING I EVER EXISTED

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WRETCHED SIDE OF ME?
"LET'S MEET AT TWO O'CLOCK IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION"
I HAVE NO VOICE

NO MATTER WHERE I AM...
AIRHEAD
THIS IS THE WEST ENTRANCE
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU
THIS IS UNAPI.
OHHH, I WAS JUST KIDDING!- DON'T CRY
...HE'LL ALWAYS COME AND FIND ME...

ONLY AN INSTANT
BUT...
I SAID THE EAST ENTRANCE
POKE
DUMMY
I FOLLOWED

...UNARI WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE ME...
NOW THAT I'VE BECOME SUCH AN OBJECT OF PITY...
I WAS TERRIFIED
BUT ALSO RELIEVED
I DON'T CARE IF THAT SEEMS WARPED.
I'LL COME BY TOMORROW AFTER THE SEMINAR
OKAY, SEE YOU
TURN-
LOOK BACK AT ME
OH- YOUR MOM WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT, HUH.
WELL, I GUESS IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR PARENTS ABOUT LETTING YOU LIVE WITH ME?
BUT HE CAN'T
HE HAS THE POWER TO FLY AWAY ON HIS OWN IF HE WANTS TO
OH WELL...
WE CAN BE PATIENT...
UNARI IS A PERSON WHO CAN FLY
THAT TIME...
GIVE UNARI BACK


DON'T LEAVE ME...

...
UH...
...WRETCHED SIDE OF ME...
THIS...

LOOK BACK

LOOK BACK...

LOOK BACK...

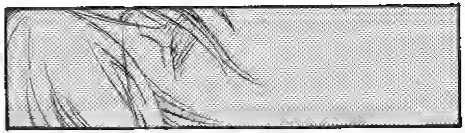
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
LOOK AT ME

YOU CAN USE THE BED
I'M NOT SAYING A WORD...
IT'S KINDA SCARY HOW IT SUITS HIM.
REALLY?
WANNA COME OVER HERE?
YOU DON'T MIND THE FLOOR?

WANNA COME TO MY PLACE?
OH-
WELCOME!
DO YOU KNOW?
I'LL LEND YOU MINE.
WAIT ONE SEC!
THEY'RE A LITTLE BIG, AREN'T THEY.
ARE THOSE MY BROTHER'S PAJAMAS?

WA!-
THUD
QUIT FLAILING
YOU LIAR. YOU'RE ALWAYS SCREAMING INSIDE FOR ME NEVER TO LET YOU GO.
HO-HO.. BULL'S-EYE?
YOU'RE BLUSHING, YOU'RE BLUSHING.
SO CUTE

THIS...

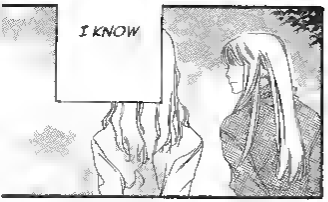


WRETCHED SIDE OF ME-

DO YOU KNOW?

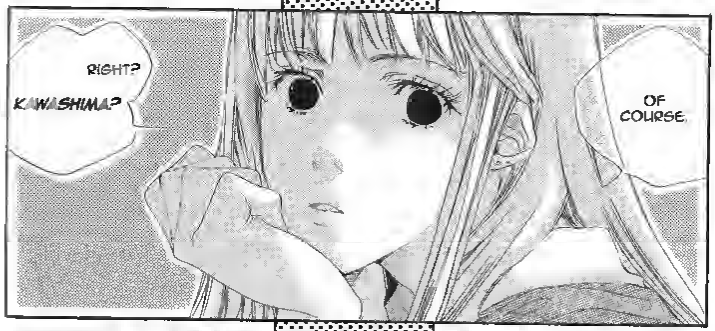
I WANT TO HAVE HOPE IN WOMEN.
OH, IN MY OPINION- I HOPE SO.
TOKIKO, THAT'S JUST TOO JADED.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING NOWADAYS.
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE, SUZU.
YOU STAY OUT OF IT, NAKAZAWA.

WE FOUR ARE COMRADES AND FRIENDS...
OH, THE BELL...
FIFTH PERIOD'S STARTING
DING
DONG

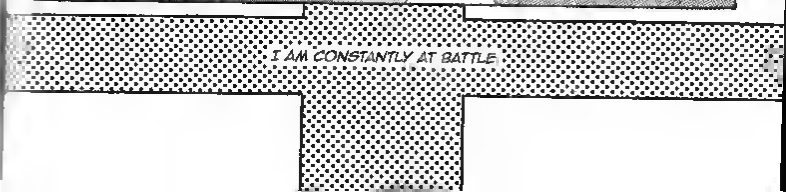

I KNOW.

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS, KAWASHIMA?
IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, YOU'LL BE "JUST FRIENDS" FOREVER...

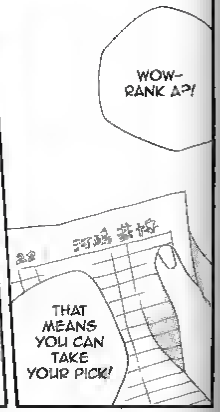
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A MAN AND A WOMAN TO JUST BE FRIENDS?


RIGHT? KAWASHIMA?
OF COURSE.

...SURE.


I AM CONSTANTLY AT BATTLE.

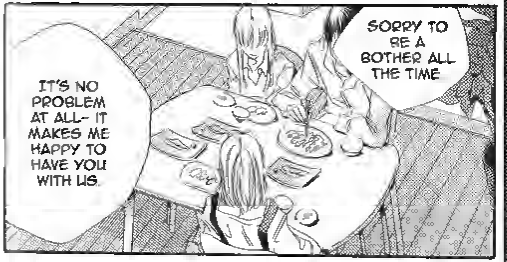
IN YOUR CASE, SUZU, CLASSICAL LIT IS BOGGING YOUR GRADES DOWN
WE'RE TAKING THE SAME CLASSES, BUT WHAT A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN GRADES...
WE PRETTY MUCH KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER..


WOW- RANK A?!
THAT MEANS YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PICK!

I WONDER IF THIS MEANS...
WE'RE ALL GONNA BE SPLIT UP...
I KNOW IT'S MOOT AT THIS POINT, BUT

AS STUDENTS FACING COLLEGE EXAMS, WE'RE IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION
I DON'T KNOW...
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S GOT HER OWN PLANS...

WHAT ABOUT TOKIKO?
ISN'T SHE APPLYING AT THE SAME PLACE AS YOU?


SORRY TO BE A BOTHER ALL THE TIME
IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL- IT MAKES ME HAPPY TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

I LOVE YOUR COOKING, TOO.
WE'VE BEEN CHILDHOOD FRIENDS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

YOU AND I...
OH- WELCOME, SUZU.
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER, MRS. KAWASHIMA.

KAWASHIMA, HAVE YOU CHOSEN THE COLLEGE YOU'RE APPLYING TO?
YEAH... I GUESS..

AND BECAUSE SUZU ONLY HAS A FATHER...
THIS HAS BECOME AN EVERYDAY RITUAL
MUNCH MUNCH

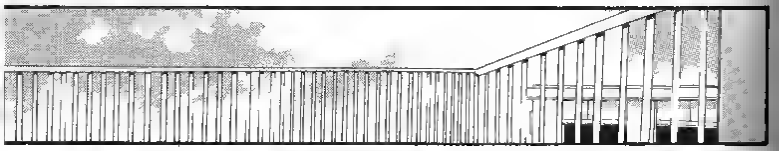
THUMP
I'LL PRACTICE WITH YOU.
HUH?
IT'S KINDA AWKWARD TO SHOW MY FACE NOW THAT I'M A SENIOR.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE THE FORMER TEAM ACE!
MUTTER
GO STRUT IN THERE AND THROW YOUR WEIGHT AROUND.
OKAY THEN HERE GOES-
WHACK
COWARD FOOL WEIRDO
HEY, WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR? I'M AT LEAST GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE TOKIKO'S PLACE!
IT'S OKAY, KAWASHIMA... DON'T PUSH YOURSELF...
I CAN DO IT. IT'S JUST THAT IT'S USUALLY BENEATH ME. I JUST DON'T LIKE SPORTS

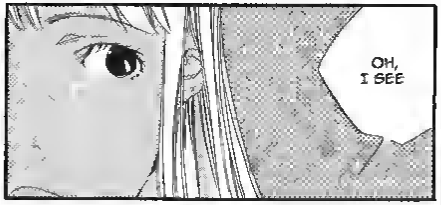
TO BE ABSOLUTELY HONEST... FOR ALL FOUR OF US, THE FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN
...AND THIS IS ONE THING I CAN'T DEMAND OF HER
AND WHY WE STRONGLY NEEDED SOMETHING CONCRETE TO HOLD ON TO. ONE THING, ANYTHING-
THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE REST OF OUR TIME HERE TOGETHER THAT MUCH MORE PRECIOUS AND VALUABLE
-THAT WE COULD BELIEVE IN
HUH? WHERE'S TOKIKO?
SHE LEFT EARLIER.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO TO CLUB PRACTICE?
OH, POOH!
JUST WHEN I WAS GOING TO ASK HER TO PRACTICE WITH ME...

SORRY ABOUT THAT, KAWASHIMA.
HAVE YOU GOT A SPARE?
I WONDER IF IT HAPPENED WHEN THE BALL HIT YOU IN THE FACE...
UNCOOL GLASSES
THE LOSS OF SOMETHING INTANGIBLE
YET I STILL LOVE YOU
BUT..

TOKIKO
I WAS HAPPY THAT YOU WERE WILLING TO TRY FOR ME.
BUT YOU KNOW~
SHE'S EVEN BETTER THAN ME AT VOLLEYBALL.
TOKIKO'S NOT IN ANY CLUB, BUT..
THANKS, KAWASHIMA.
AREN'T THE FRAMES OF YOUR GLASSES BENT?
HUH?

A FRIENDSHIP FORMED OF PARALLEL LINES AND SHAPED MEMORY—

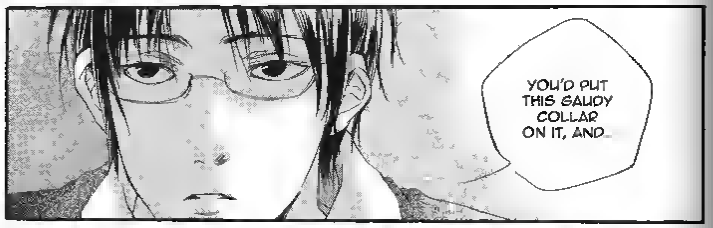


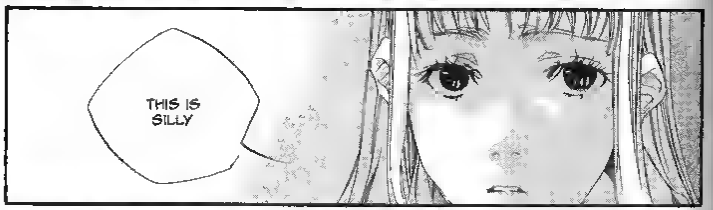


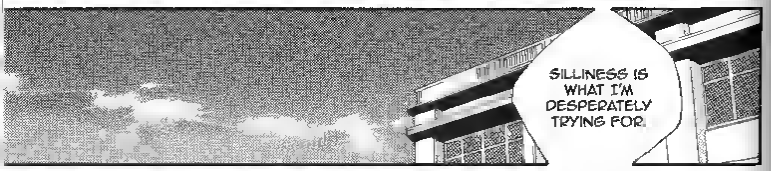
LET'S NOT DO STUFF LIKE THIS, KAWASHIMA.
I'M SCARED, KAWASHIMA.
IT'S LIKE..
YOU'RE A DIFFERENT PERSON, EVER SINCE YESTERDAY

THIS HAS SOUR PICKLED PLUM IN IT!
BLECH
YUP
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
CHOMP
PICKLED PLUM IS HEALTHY FOR YOU, SO YOU'VE GOT TO EAT AT LEAST A LITTLE OF IT!
YOU'VE GOT TOO MANY DISLIKES IN FOOD.

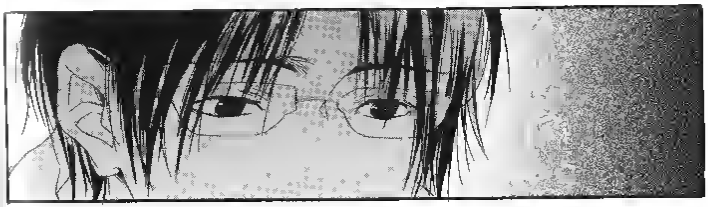
NO!
MRRGH
NO.
TRADE WITH ME.
HERE.
COME ON!





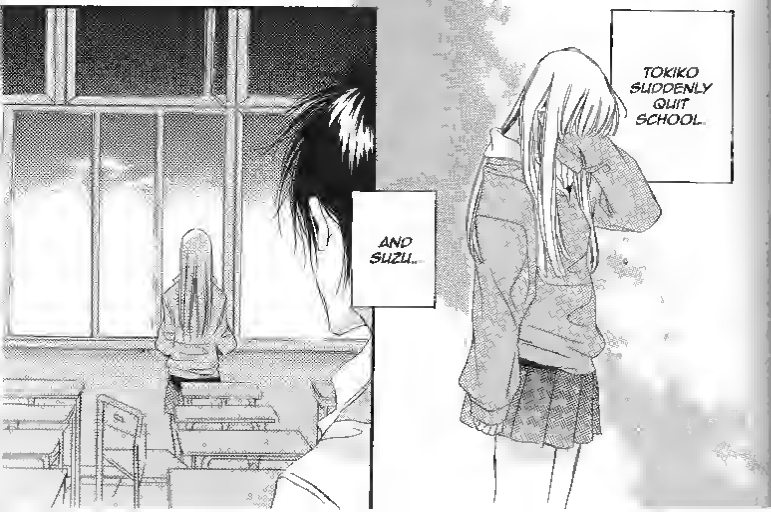


LIKE A CORNY LINE FROM A B-MOVIE. A MISFIRED ATTEMPT AT AN ACTION SCENE.

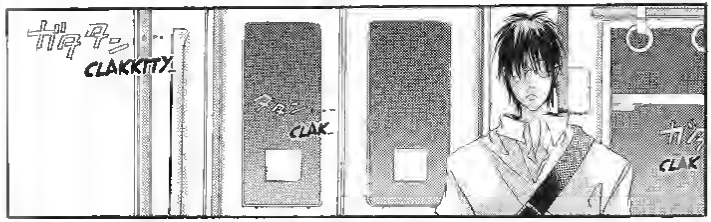


I AM CONSTANTLY AT BATTLE

SUZU...
I THOUGHT AT LEAST YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND..
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, TOKIKO!


TOKIKO SUDDENLY QUIT SCHOOL.
AND SUZU..

I HAVEN'T SPOKEN A WORD WITH SUZU SINCE THEN.


CLAKKITY.
CLAK.
CLAK

ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION. STUPID POLITICIANS AN IDIOTIC, DRUNK COUPLE
OH SHUT UP!

THE END OF THE WORLD
SO IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE BUSY.
I HEARD SUZU'S FATHER IS GETTING REMARRIED.
SUZU DIDN'T COME BY AGAIN TODAY?

I'M SORRY, KAWASHIMA

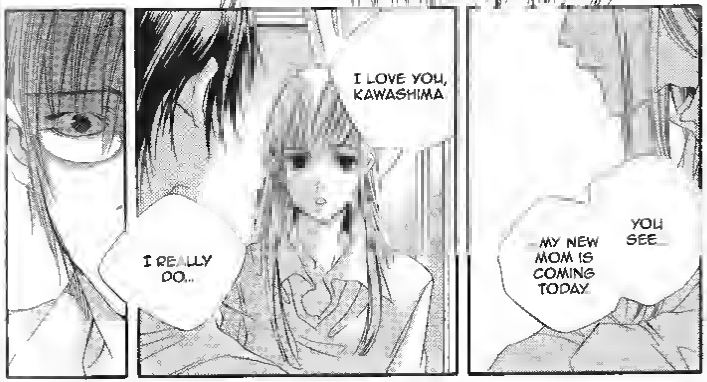
WHEN I FIRST MET SUZU, SHE NEVER SPOKE TO ANYONE, AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL

WHEN I ASKED HER WHAT SHE WANTED MOST SUZU REPLIED, "MOTHER."

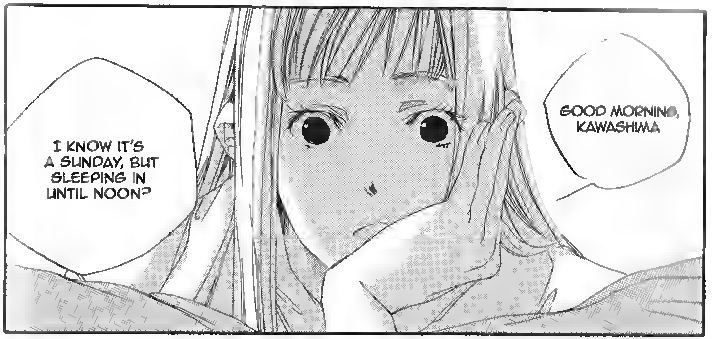
FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOY I WAS, IT WAS AN ALMOST HERCULEAN TASK

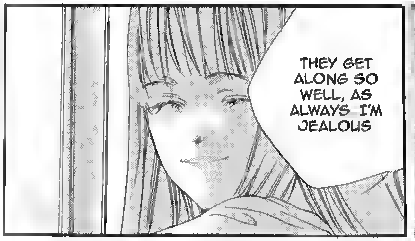
BUT I SOMEHOW DESPERATELY MANAGED TO GATHER THEM.

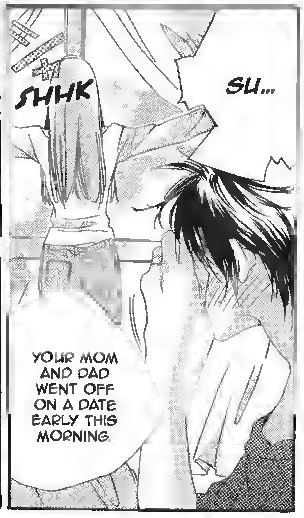
THE NEXT DAY SUZU CRIED, SAYING, "I'M SORRY"



NOT ONLY THAT, BUT SHE SHOWS UP WITH YOUR "YELLOW FLOWERS" YOU MADE HER BRING
...THANKS FOR SETTING THINGS UP
TOKIKO CAME OVER LAST NIGHT
...AND WE MANAGED TO PATCH THINGS UP
BUT YOU'VE GOT A SURPRISINGLY MELODRAMATIC SIDE.
WHA...!
HMPH
DON'T THINK I'LL BE SO EASILY CHARMED AGAIN LIKE WHEN WE WERE STILL KIDS.
BUT IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY, DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH EFFORT YOU PUT INTO YOUR RELATIONSHIP...
...MY PARENTS DON'T ALWAYS GET ALONG EITHER, YOU KNOW.
TO BE HONEST, THERE WERE A COUPLE OF TIMES WHEN THINGS LOOKED REALLY GRIM
YOU CAN CHANGE THE OUTCOME ANY NUMBER OF WAYS.


I KNOW IT'S A SUNDAY, BUT SLEEPING IN UNTIL NOON?
GOOD MORNING, KAWASHIMA


THEY GET ALONG SO WELL, AS ALWAYS. I'M JEALOUS

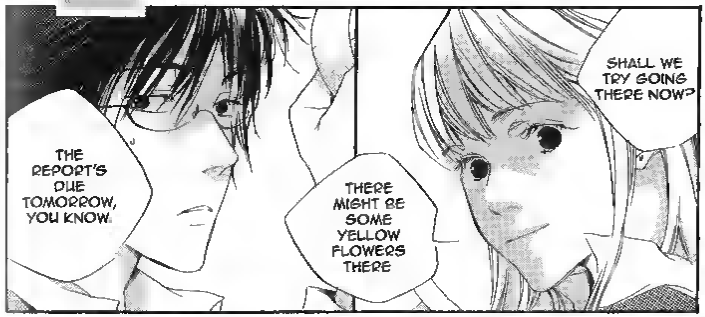

SHHK
SU...
YOUR MOM AND DAD WENT OFF ON A DATE EARLY THIS MORNING.

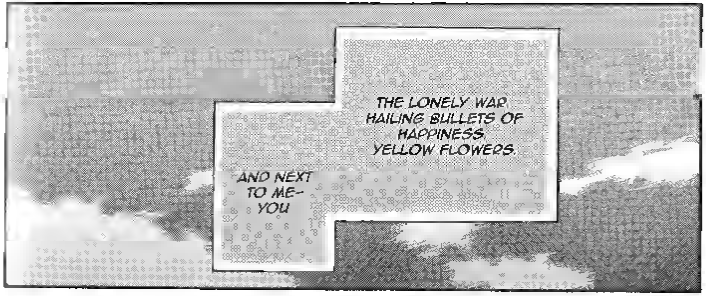
DESPERATELY CLINGING TO SILLY PROMISES LIKE, "LET'S ALWAYS STAY TOGETHER"...
...BUT FOR US, IT WAS EVERYTHING.
THIS IS WHAT WE'LL SAY TO EACH OTHER WHEN WE'RE OLD, SITTING ON THE PORCH AS WE'RE ABOUT TO DIE...
"THOSE WERE HAPPY TIMES"
...TOGETHER WITH YOU-- MY FRIEND... AND NOW LOVER

CREAK
WILL YOU ALWAYS STAY NEAR ME?
I KNOW IT SOUNDS HYPOCRITICAL, BUT
THINGS'LL BE EASIER TO TAKE IF YOU THINK THAT WAY
ROLL
I'M NOT SMART LIKE YOU ARE, KAWASHIMA
WILL YOU , ALWAYS STAY WITH ME?
THE SUPPOSEDLY SMALL WORLD...
...IS ACTUALLY QUITE BIG
AND IN IT, EVERY DAY WE PADDLE OUR FEET

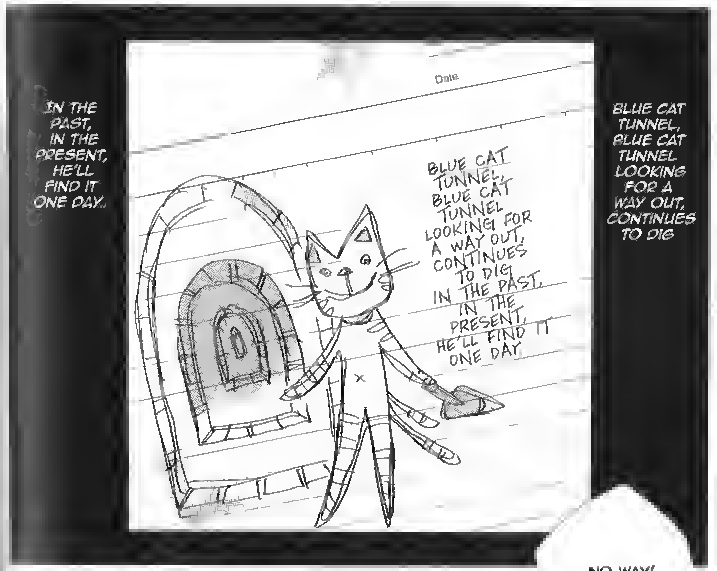
BLUE CAT TUNNEL

HMM?
OH!
LOOK, LOOK, KAWASHIMA
A CLASSICAL LIT REPORT. SUNSET IN THE CITY THE ASSURED INCREASE IN ANTACID USE
WE USED TO PLAY ON THAT EMBANKMENT ALL THE TIME, DIDN'T WE?
BUT-
OHHH- I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL!
AND MODERN LITERATURE





THE LONELY WAR / END


IN THE PAST, IN THE PRESENT, HE'LL FIND IT ONE DAY.
Date
BLUE CAT TUNNEL, BLUE CAT TUNNEL LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT, CONTINUES TO DIG. IN THE PAST, IN THE PRESENT, HE'LL FIND IT ONE DAY.
BLUE CAT TUNNEL, BLUE CAT TUNNEL LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT, CONTINUES TO DIG

..IS MY FRIEND
SUZU...
I LIKE IT
SO WHAT?
DON'T LOOK, DON'T LOOK!
EEEK!
IT'S SOOO EMBARRASSING!
NO WAY! YOU DREW THIS, SUZU?

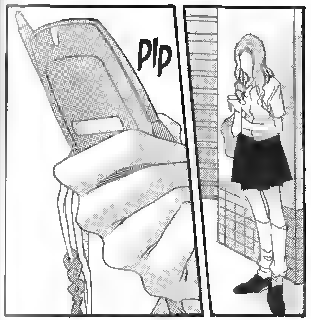
PURE, BEAUTIFUL SUZU.
WHEN I'M FINISHED DRAWING IT ALL...
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, TOKIKO
..IS A SECRET ONLY I AM PRIVY TO.
AND THAT...
SUZU'S DREAM IS TO BECOME A CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATOR-

I...
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HER

OKAY
I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO REALLY "LOVE"

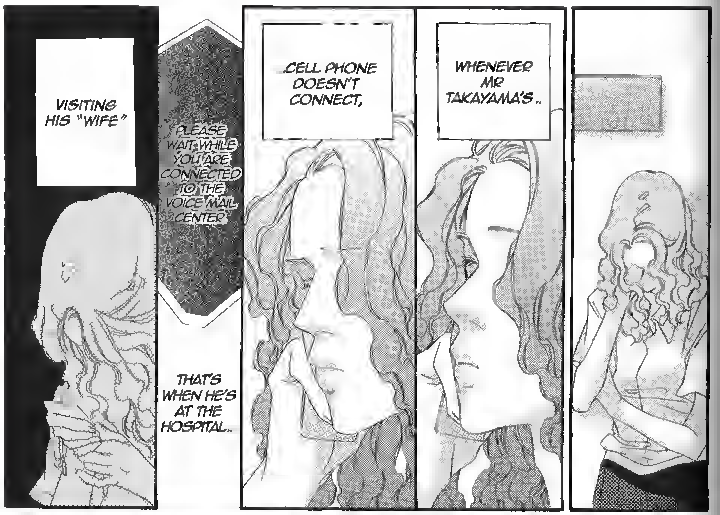
I'M SURE...
HELLO~
SHE'D PROBABLY BREAK IF SHE FOUND OUT.
MR. TAKAYAMA, IT'S ME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
UH UM..
BUT...
I WANT TO SEE YOU.

DO I GIVE YOU MONEY EVEN TO JUST TALK WITH YOU?
UM...THIS IS MY FIRST TIME DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
BUT SUZU~
YES


PIP

PLEASE.
...DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HALF OF THE REAL ME.

IT SUITS YOU.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE,
MR. TAKAYAMA SHOWS A SAD LITTLE SMILE.
...A LITTLE TIRED
IT'S FINE.
UNTIL THREE YEARS AGO, HE TAUGHT VIOLIN CLASS
SORRY THE ROOM'S SUCH A MESS-
MR. TAKAYAMA IS 37 YEARS OLD
I WAS A STUDENT OF HIS
YEAH.
MR. TAKAYAMA... A NECKTIE...
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
ALWAYS SEEMS...
I HAD NO CHOICE..
HE WORKS DOING TRANSLATION OR SOMETHING, AND...
NOWADAYS...
I HAD SOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE TO MEET WITH TODAY, SO..
IT DOESN'T SUIT ME, DOES IT?
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
BECAUSE MR. TAKAYAMA...
HE'S UNABLE TO CONTROL IT PROPERLY EVER SINCE THREE YEARS AGO
HIS LEFT ARM IS DISCOLORED A PURPLISH HUE, AND..
MR. TAKAYAMA NEVER MAKES A MOVE TO TOUCH ME FIRST


VISITING HIS "WIFE"
"PLEASE WAIT AWHILE. YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE VOICE MAIL CENTER."
CELL PHONE DOESN'T CONNECT,
WHENEVER MR TAKAYAMA'S..
THAT'S WHEN HE'S AT THE HOSPITAL..

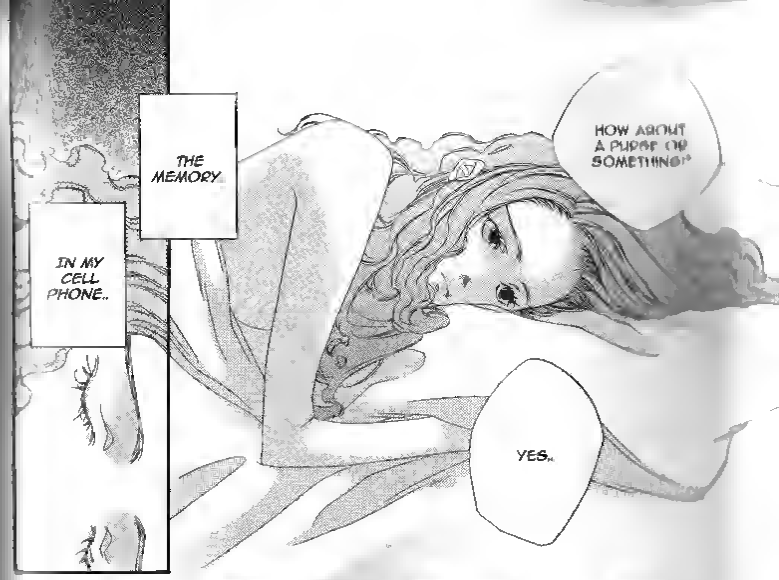
AND I'M LONELY.

TOKIKO-CHAN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO HAVE?
SO LONELY

..HAS SLEEPING BEAUTY FOR A "WIFE".
YEAH, SO HE GOT IN THIS ACCIDENT AND HE CAN'T PLAY THE VIOLIN ANYMORE
HIS WIFE, WHO WAS SITTING NEXT TO HIM, BECAME A VEGETABLE

PIP

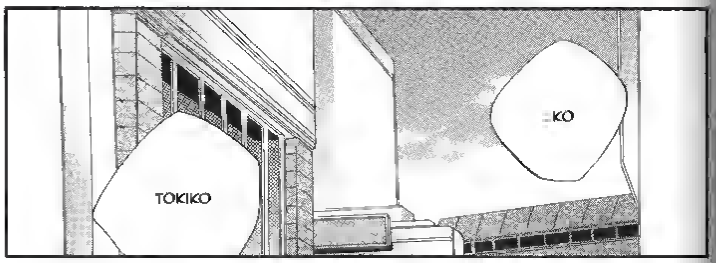
THAT IT SEEMS UNREAL
HUH? IT'S LIKE A TV DRAMA OR SOMETHING..
SUCH A HEAVY, SERIOUS STORY

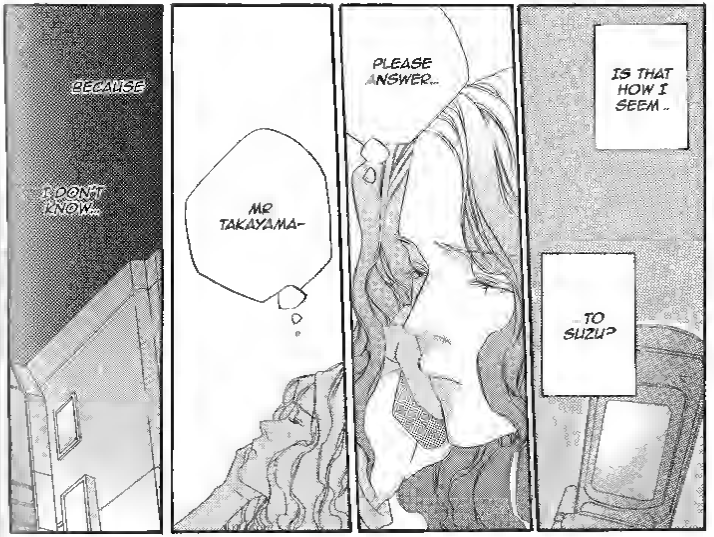

HOW ABOUT A PURSE OR SOMETHING?
YES..
THE MEMORY
IN MY CELL PHONE..

THEN LET'S GO SHOPPING RIGHT NOW
IS FILLED WITH NAMES..
OKAY
...SO MANY NAMES I DON'T NEED

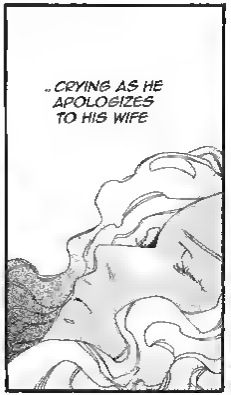
I THINK IT WOULD LOOK BETTER ON YOU, SUZU.
WHAAAT? NO WAY!
HEY, LOOK LOOK! THIS OUTFIT IS SO CUTE-
I BET IT WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU, TOKIKO.
BUT I REMAIN UNABLE..
TO ERASE THEM.

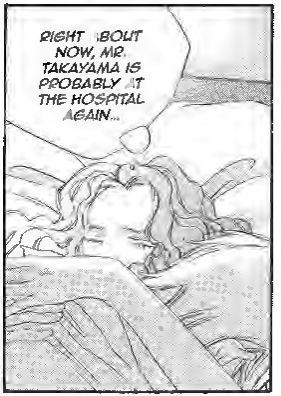
YOU'RE THE GLAMOROUS TYPE, TOKIKO, SO-
THIS OUTFIT SUITS SOMEONE MORE GLAMOROUS.
I'M SURE IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU





...ANY OTHER WAY...

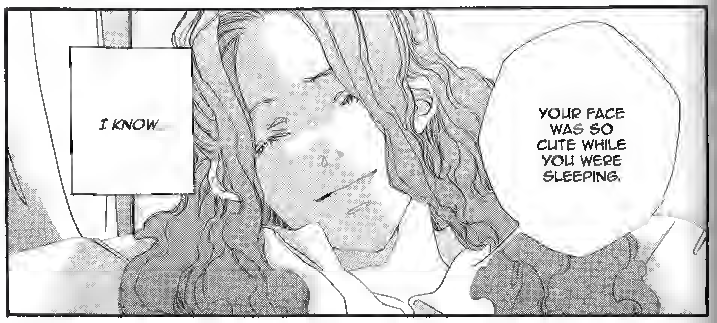




STOP
OH?
IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?
I BOUGHT YOU A WATCH
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN-
IT'S ME-
YOUR NAME...
TOKIKO-CHAN, WAS IT?
WHO IS THIS?
YOUR FRIEND IS CUTE, TOO.
STOP IT
SUZU
SHE'LL BE DEFILED.
DON'T YOU TOUCH HER!
DON'T TOUCH SUZU!
SHE'S MY TREASURE...
NOOOOO!!
MR. TAKAYAMA...
PLEASE LOOK AT ME, MR. TAKAYAMA.
MR. TAKAYAMA.
DON'T CRY. LOOK AT ME...
IF YOU DON'T-

I'LL BREAK-
MR TAKAYAMA-
HELP ME-
SUZU..
I COULDN'T LOOK HER IN THE FACE AFTER THAT

...I MET SLEEPING BEAUTY,
THE LAST TIME
WAS THREE YEARS AGO


I KNOW.
YOUR FACE WAS SO CUTE WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.

I DON'T WANT...

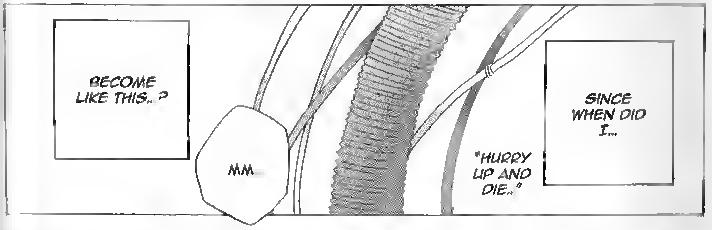
TO BECOME A BURDEN

THOSE ARE NOT WORDS TO SAY TO AN OLD MAN LIKE ME!
WHY YOU-
MR TAKAYAMA IS SUFFERING, TOO.
EEK!
RUMPLE
RUMPLE

EVEN I KNOW WHAT IT IS I REALLY HAVE TO DO-

"HURRY UP..."
WHEN...?

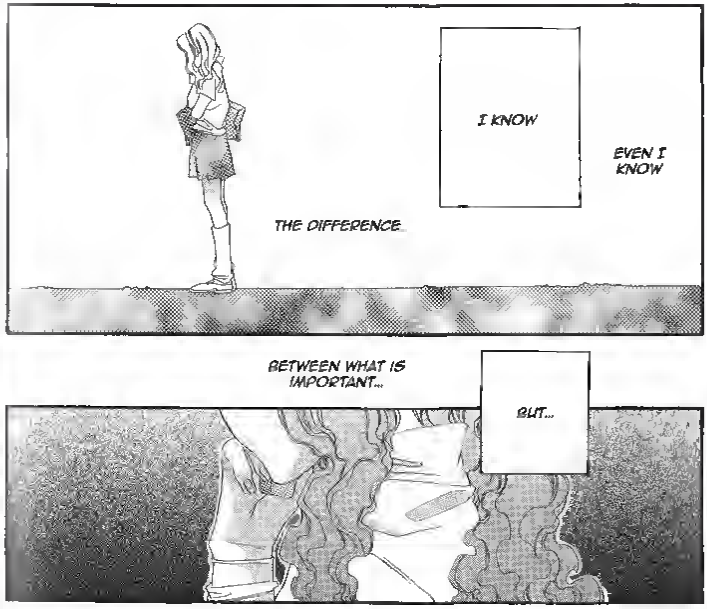
THE LONG HAIR AND VOICE THAT I HAD ALWAYS ADMIRED WERE BOTH GONE
SHE HAD MANY LONG TUBES STUCK IN HER BODY

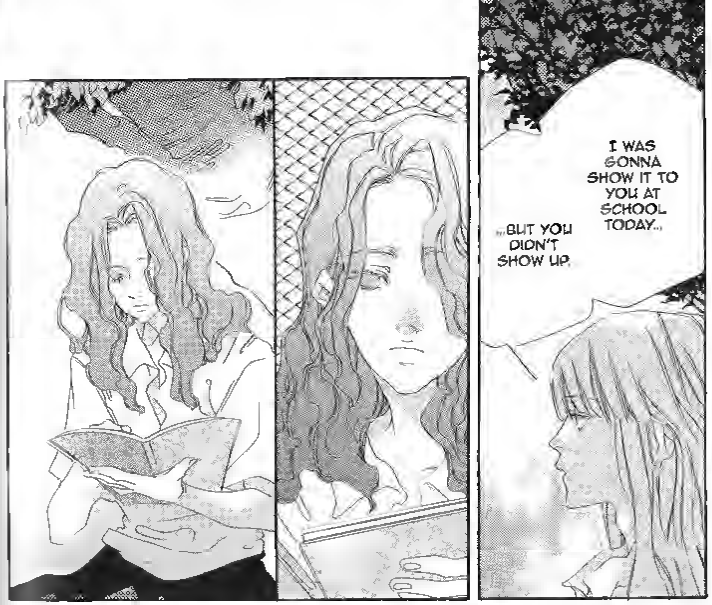

BECOME LIKE THIS...?
MM...
"HURRY UP AND DIE."
SINCE WHEN DID I...

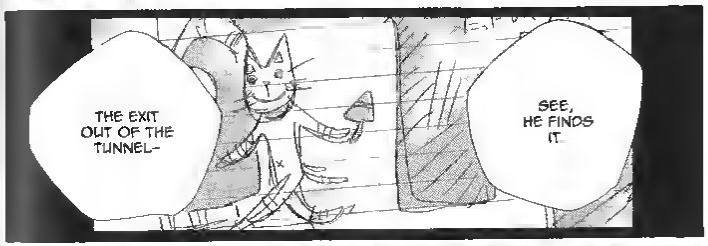
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WAKE ME AT TIMES LIKE THESE.
NO.
BUT-

OH-
SORRY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN KEEP SLEEPING.

SORRY FOR CALLING YOU SO SUDDENLY.
NAH, NO PROBLEM.
I WAS JUST OUT DRINKING WITH MY COLLEGE BUDS
HERE.


I KNOW
EVEN I KNOW
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN WHAT IS IMPORTANT...
BUT...
...AND WHAT IS UNNECESSARY
BUT...
TOKIKO-CHAN.
PLEASE WAIT WHILE YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE VOICE MAIL SERVICE CENTER

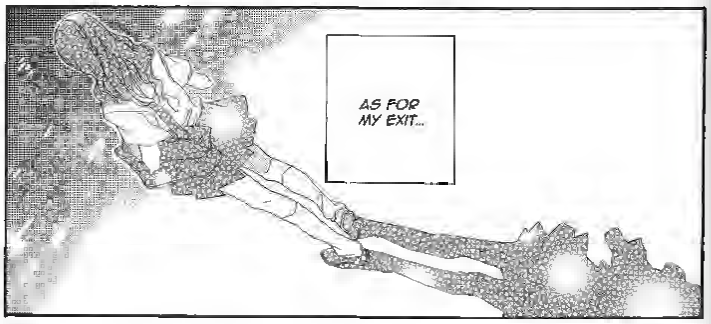

I WAS GONNA SHOW IT TO YOU AT SCHOOL TODAY...
...BUT YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP.


THE EXIT OUT OF THE TUNNEL-
SEE, HE FINDS IT.

YOUR EXIT, TOO...
IT'S CUTE

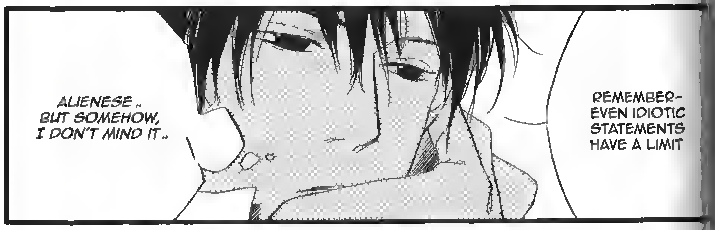
SUZU..
YOU'LL BE OKAY- I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT.

WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I HAD EVER IMAGINED
...KNEW MUCH MORE ABOUT ME THAN I HAD THOUGHT, AND...


AS FOR MY EXIT...

BLUE CAT TUNNEL / END

YUZURU YOSHIMOTO (16), CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TOKYO,
IS THE STANDARD OF NORMALITY

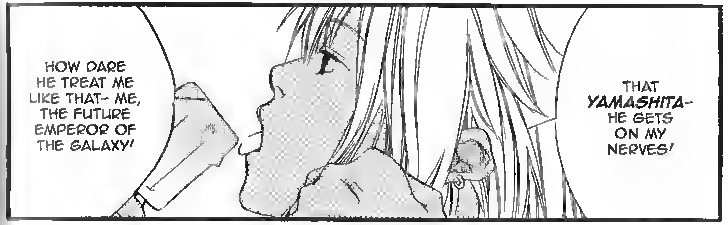


A BIT ON THE TENSE SIDE.

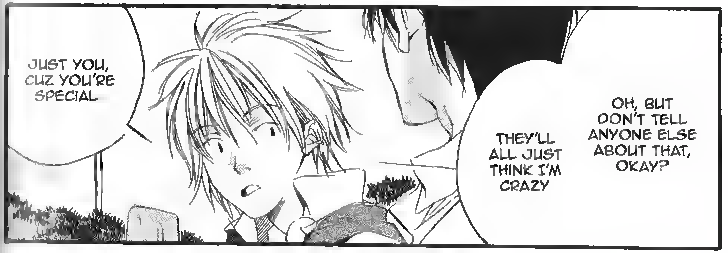
AN ANXIETY-RIDDLED..

TYPICAL 16-YEAR-OLD

ULALA NAKAZAWA (16), CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TOKYO,
HAS A DREAM THAT IS BOTH IDIOTIC AND GRAND



THOUGH TIMID,
A SELF-PROCLAIMED RULER



HIS PHRASE OF HABIT
"I LOVE YOU, **YUZURU!**"

ALIENESE.

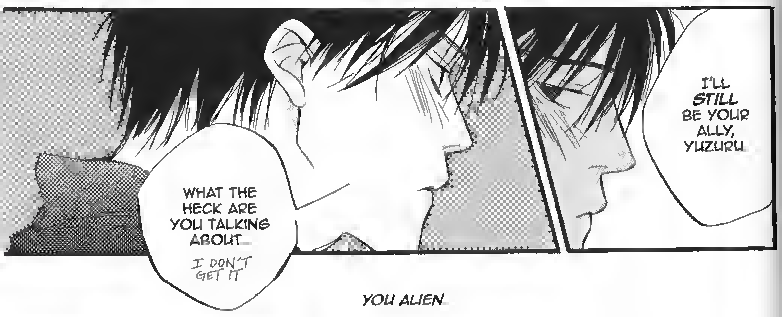
A SPACE CADET FROM SOUTH HIGH
AND THEN, AND THEN-
HE SAYS, "WHICH ONE OF THE DORA-CHAN SERIES MAKES YOU CRY THE MOST?"
IT TOTALLY ROCKED
THIS OLD SKINHEAD DUDE!
WHAT'S WRONG, YUZURU?
SPACING OUT LIKE THAT
CONK
OH..
DID I BORE YOU?
WITH THAT STORY-

OH-
I WORK AT THE VIDEO RENTAL PLACE NEAR HERE
COME VISIT ME WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE TIME
OVER THAT WAY
DANG, I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR MY PART-TIME JOB
WELL, SEE YA, YUZURU
SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW

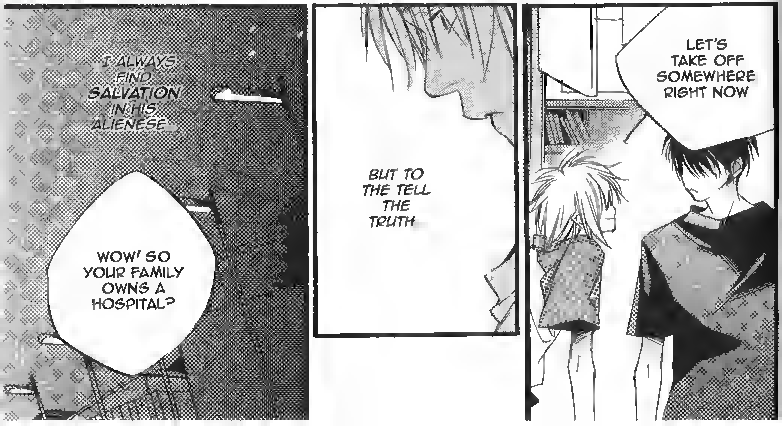
LET'S DEFINITELY MEET AGAIN TOMORROW OKAY, YUZURU?

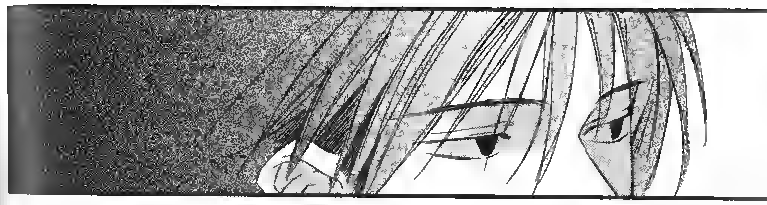
I'LL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO GO, YUZURU

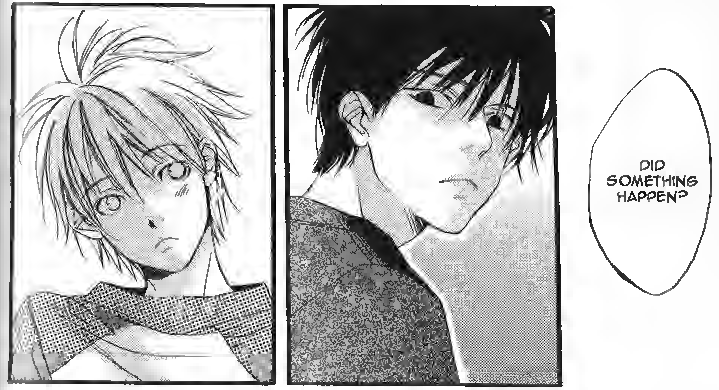
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT-
'CUZ EVEN IF EVERYONE ELSE AROUND YOU BECOMES YOUR ENEMY-
YOU GO AHEAD AND DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
HUH?

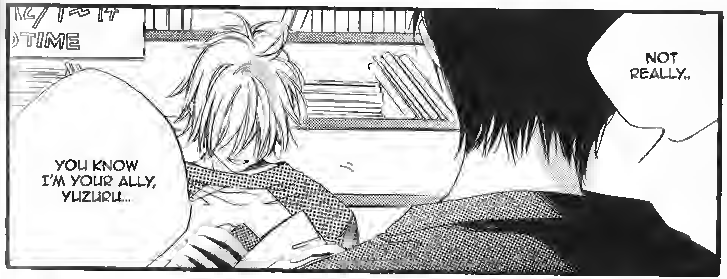

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
I DON'T GET IT
I'LL STILL BE YOUR ALLY, YUZURU.

YOU ALIEN.


I ALWAYS FIND SALVATION IN HIS ALIENESS...
WOW! SO YOUR FAMILY OWNS A HOSPITAL?
BUT TO THE TELL THE TRUTH
LET'S TAKE OFF SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW




DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?


TIME
YOU KNOW I'M YOUR ALLY, YUZURU...
NOT REALLY..

I CAN'T STAND THIS PAIN ANYMORE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE I WAS SO AFRAID YOU MIGHT REJECT ME, BUT I CAN'T HOLD IT IN
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT STIRS ME.
WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, ALL I SEE IS YOU, YUZURU.
I CAN'T EVEN STAND FOR THEM TO TOUCH ME.
BEING LOVED BY ANYONE ELSE ONLY MAKES ME WANT TO RUN AWAY. NO JOKE.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
I COULD START A HAREM
I'M PRETTY POPULAR AT MY SCHOOL
SO MANY GIRLS
I DON'T MEAN TO BRAG ABOUT MYSELF OR ANYTHING, BUT-

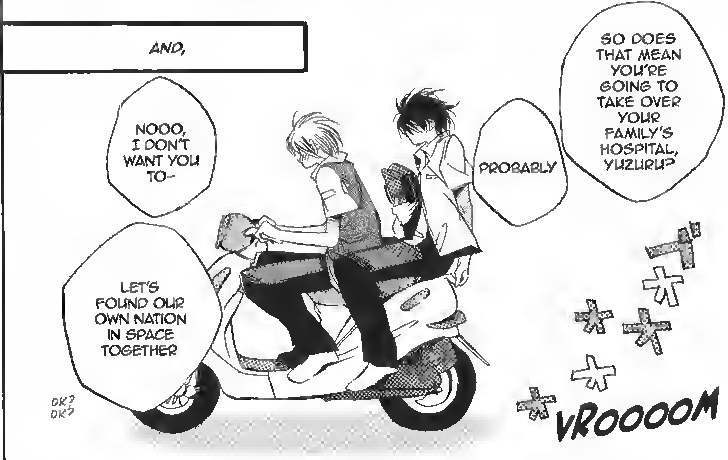
I DON'T KNOW WHY I CHOSE YOU EITHER, YUZURU
AGAIN WITH THE ALIENESE
UNABLE TO DECODE
HAHAHAHAHA
THINK OF ME
THEN, WHEN YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE BREATHING ROOM...
VROOM
EH?
HAHA
YOU SHOULD JUST BECOME SIMPLISTIC, TOO, YUZURU
THEN,
VRRROOOMM
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO SIMPLISTIC?
THERE'S A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY RIDING ON MY SHOULDERS, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE SO LUCKY! YOU CAN GET ALL YOUR HOSPITAL TREATMENTS FOR FREE!
CAN I COME OVER NEXT TIME?

NAKAZAWA- LET'S GO OUT SOMEWHERE!
LET'S GO HAVE FUN
SHUT UP, UGLY
LEAVE ME ALONE!
DASH
EEEEK!
HEY, HOW ARE YA?
WHA?!
..AN ALIEN. LIKE ULALA.
I CAN HAVE AT LEAST ONE ALLY, CAN'T I? EVEN IF IT IS..

ALIEN INVASION! ALIEN INVASION!
PLEASE, GET ME AWAY FROM HERE- TAKE ME TO YOUR WORLD!
I ALONE AM YOUR ALLY IN THIS WORLD.
I SWEAR...
WHAT ARE YOU, A KID? YOU CAN'T JUST ACT ON EMOTION ALONE ALL THE TIME!
SO WHAT IF HE'S THE ONLY ONE-
SHEESH... BUT...
EVEN IF, IN THE FUTURE, I END UP LIVING A TRIVIAL AND POINTLESS LIFE
..HE'LL PROBABLY BE LAUGHING LIGHTHEARTEDLY NEXT TO ME, SPOUTING THE SAME INANITIES..
SOMETHING! IN ALIENESE, LIKE, "WE'RE SO TOTALLY LUCKY!"

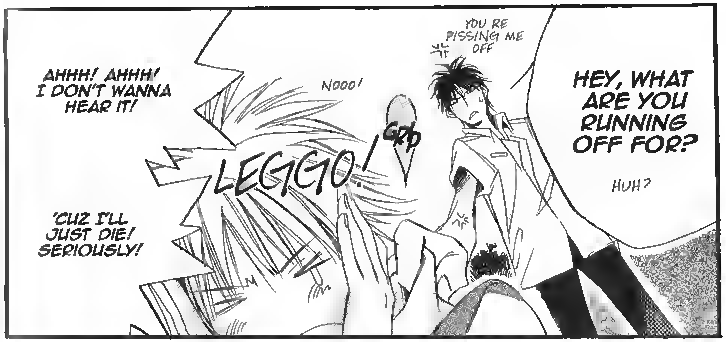
ULALA NAKAZAWA (16), CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TOKYO, IS STILL, AS ALWAYS, AN ALIEN

AND,


NOOO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO-
PROBABLY
SO DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER YOUR FAMILY'S HOSPITAL, YUZURU?
LET'S FOUND OUR OWN NATION IN SPACE TOGETHER
OK? OK?
VROOOOM

YUZURU YOSHIMOTO (16), CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TOKYO, THIS DAY TRANSFERS CITIZENSHIP TO A NATION IN SPACE

TOKYO ALIEN ULALA / END



I DON'T WANNA DIE I DON'T WANNA DIE I DON'T WANNA DIIIEEE...
JUST LISTE...
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR ME TO EXPERIENCE MY FIRST REJECTION AT 16!
I'VE NEVER BEEN DUMPED BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

PLANET yours

SUMOMO YUMEKA

THE PAST GRADUALLY GROWS EVER MORE BEAUTIFUL IN OUR MEMORIES.
AND OUR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE GRADUALLY SHRINK AND ARE REDUCED IN SCALE BY THE WEIGHT OF PASSING TIME

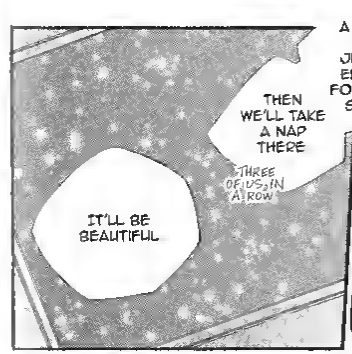
AKIRA'S STORY

THE DAY I BECOME A BUTTERFLY

SUMOMO YUMEKA

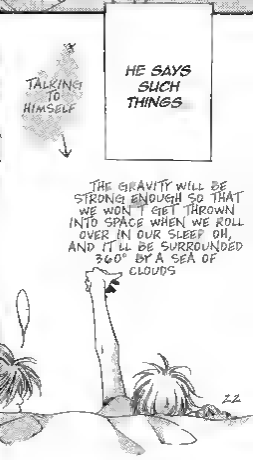
YOU C'MERE TOO, AKIRA
NN
CEASES TO EXIST, AND
..THAT THE WORD "IMPOSSIBLE"..
I'M THE ONE THAT GETS CONFUSED, AND
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
MY FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY... IN MY RIGHT HAND... AS ALWAYS A CHEAP CIGARETTE
YES SINCE THAT DAY...
EVEN ON THAT DAY...
ALWAYS, ALWAYS..

I'M GOING TO BUY A PLANET
IS ALWAYS THE SAME
BUT HARU...

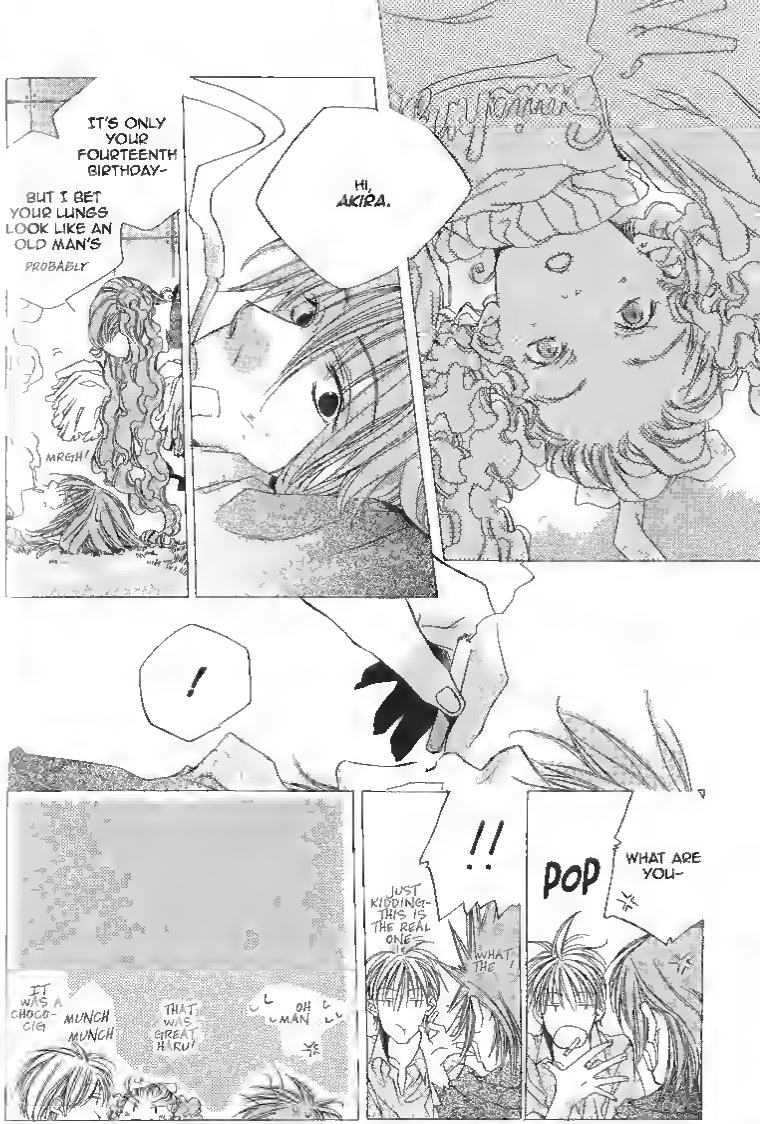

THEN WE'LL TAKE A NAP THERE
THREE OF US, IN A ROW
IT'LL BE BEAUTIFUL

A SMALL ONE, JUST BIG ENOUGH FOR US TO SIT ON

BLUSH
HM?
STARE
WITH SUCH A STRAIGHT FACE


TALKING TO HIMSELF
HE SAYS SUCH THINGS
THE GRAVITY WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH SO THAT WE WON'T GET THROWN INTO SPACE WHEN WE ROLL OVER IN OUR SLEEP. OH, AND IT'LL BE SURROUNDED 360° BY A SEA OF CLOUDS

IT'S OUT OF LOVE.
AND STUFF
SIGH..
RUMPLE RUMPLE
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS BUG ME LIKE THIS DAY AFTER DAY?
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU GUYS?
WE'RE FRIENDS JOIN US, AKIRA
BEFORE I KNEW IT, THIS DAILY ROUTINE HAD BEEN FORCED UPON ME
SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COUNTERACT THEM
ALL I COULD DO WAS TRY TO DENY AND IGNORE
BY THE WAY "MINE IS ROMANTIC" LOVE
HUH?
NINA'S IS "BEST FRIENDS" LOVE
LET'S PARTY TONIGHT, OKAY?
COUNT ME OUT FOOL
MMM OKAY


IT'S ONLY YOUR FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY-
BUT I BET YOUR LUNGS LOOK LIKE AN OLD MAN'S
PROBABLY
MREH!
HI, AKIRA.
!
IT WAS A CHOCO-CIG!
MUNCH MUNCH
THAT WAS GREAT HARU!
OH MAN
!!
JUST KIDDING- THIS IS THE REAL ONE
WHAT THE
POP
WHAT ARE YOU-

I INFUSED IT WITH MAGIC- JUST FOR YOU, AKIRA
SO HOLD ON TO THAT
BECAUSE THAT..
IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, ANOTHER WORLD HAS ALWAYS EXISTED
HERE, TAKE IT BACK
I DON'T DEAL WITH CRAP LIKE THAT
I SAID I DON'T WANT IT, SO I DON'T WANT IT!
"THAT BELONGED TO HARU'S PAPA."
"HE SAID IT'S A PIECE OF A METEORITE..."
IT'S NOT THAT...
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO THE PARTY?!
RUSTLE
WAAH!
I WAS WAITING ALL LAST NIGHT FOR YOU!
AKIRA, YOU MEANIE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO.
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT- OKAY, AKIRA?
TH- THAT-
WHAT IS UP WITH YOU, ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
DON'T THROW IT AWAY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!
PROMISE ME YOU WILL!
PROMISE-
HM?

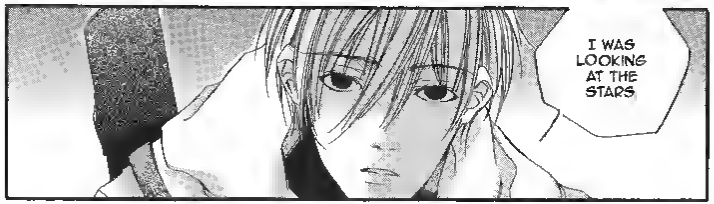
AND NOW...
...THE SUPPORT FOR MY VERY EXISTENCE...
...IS UNDENIABLY-HARU'S MAGIC...
WORKING HARD?
HI!
AKIRA!
LUNCH
WANNA GO TO STARBUCKS?

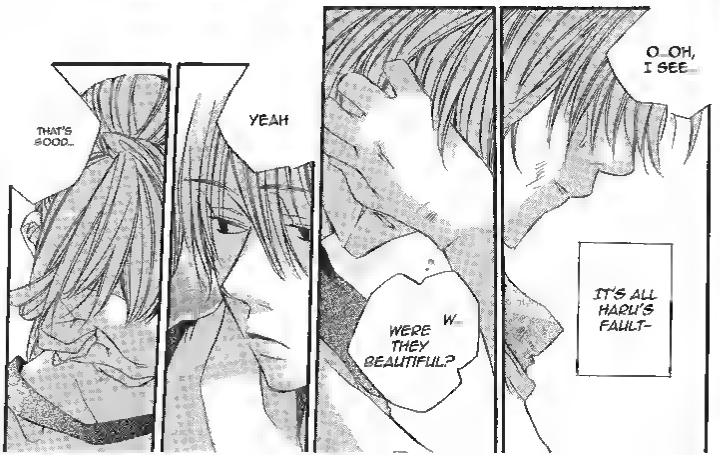
TOO BAD... I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU...
IF YOU HELD ON TO IT UNTIL YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY...
...WHAT THE MAGIC I INFUSED IN IT WAS...
IT'S STUPID
IT'S BEEN ALMOST...
...A YEAR SINCE THAT DAY...
THIS MAKE-BELIEVE "WORLD" OF THEIRS...
...AND EVEN HARU, WHO CAN SO OPENLY GIVE A PIECE OF IT AWAY TO A STRANGER...

'KAY
SEE YOU LATER, THEN
I'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO, SO...
THUMP
I'M FINE
YOU CAN CRY ON HARU'S SHOULDER MORE IF YOU WANT, YOU KNOW
ARE YOU LISTENING?
HUH?
GRUMP
THIS TIME YOU PARTY WITH US FOR SURE!
SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW ☆
KISS
THE FUTURE WILL ARRIVE
I KNOW
TOMORROW'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
'CUZ HARU LOVES YOU A LOT, AKIRA

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
I FELL. JUST NOW
AGAIN? THAT'S HOW YOU HURT YOURSELF LAST TIME, TOO
YOU'RE SO CLUMSY, AKIRA
YOU'RE HURT AGAIN
NINA...
...IS PURE
SHUT UP
I DON'T WANT TO SULLY HER WITH UNNECESSARY STUFF
DOES IT HURT?
...FOR HARU, TOO...
OF COURSE THE SAME GOES...
THAT'S WHY

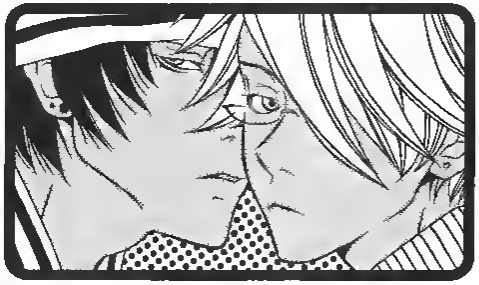
H...HOW ABOUT YOU, HARU?
I WAS OUT OF THEM, SO...
S... SMOKES
IT'S HARU'S FAULT...
WHAT'S WRONG?
AKIRA?


I WAS LOOKING AT THE STARS


THAT'S GOOD...
YEAH
W...
WERE THEY BEAUTIFUL?
O...OH, I SEE...
IT'S ALL HARU'S FAULT-

I
I DIDN'T WANT ANY HEAVY, UNWANTED MEMORIES TO REMAIN BEHIND
WHEN BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES OF THE PAST WILL FAR OUTSHINE ANYTHING ELSE I POSSESSED UP UNTIL THEN
BUT THAT MADE ME ALL THE MORE SCARED OF BECOMING WEAK
I KNOW ALL THAT

ENDING



"HOW CAN I LIVE FOR TOMORROW WHEN I'VE LOST EVERYTHING?"

...GROWS EVER LARGER, INFINITELY, DAY BY DAY...

OKAY...

MY FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY

HIS EXISTENCE...

I'LL HAVE A NEW MAGIC FOR YOU

LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW

PLANET YOURS / END

Different...yet alike...

How can two people be so completely different from one another, yet be so in tune with love?

June by DMP

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"THE DAY I BECOME A BUTTERFLY" IS A WORK I DISLIKE PERSONALLY BECAUSE THERE ARE VARIOUS THINGS I REGRET ABOUT IT. I ADMIT I DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PIECE MYSELF

I AM BOTH EXTREMELY ASHAMED AND GRATEFUL THAT MY WORK, SUCH AS IT IS, AWKWARD AND INADEQUATE AS ALWAYS, HAS BEEN COLLECTED TOGETHER IN SUCH A FASHION AS THIS.

"THE LONELY WAR" AND "BLUE CAT TUNNEL" WERE STORIES THAT I WANTED TO HAVE MORE OF AN UPLIFTING "VIBRANT YOUTH" QUALITY, BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE ON THE DEPRESSING SIDE

TO MY EDITOR, UTSUNOMIYA-SAN, THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH. I WISH YOU A LOVELY LIFE TOGETHER WITH YOUR PRINCE

"TOKYO ALIEN ULALA" IS NONSENSE, AS USUAL "PLANET YOURS" IS WELL, MY BRAIN CELLS MUST HAVE BEEN DEAD DURING THAT ONE BECAUSE I DON'T REMEMBER IT AT ALL SORRY

ENDING

I SOMETIMES UPDATE A FOOLISH JOURNAL HERE

HTTP://WWW.SEB/GLOBENE.JP/~SASSHI

IN THE END, I REGRET THAT ALL MY WORK IS SO INEXPLICABLE. I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

2003 JUNE

SUMOMO YUMEKA